MY FATHER - JACK MINER

Manly F. Miner Reports - Report Number I

JACK MINER'S CONSERVATION POLICY HIS PHILOSOPHY AND REASONING

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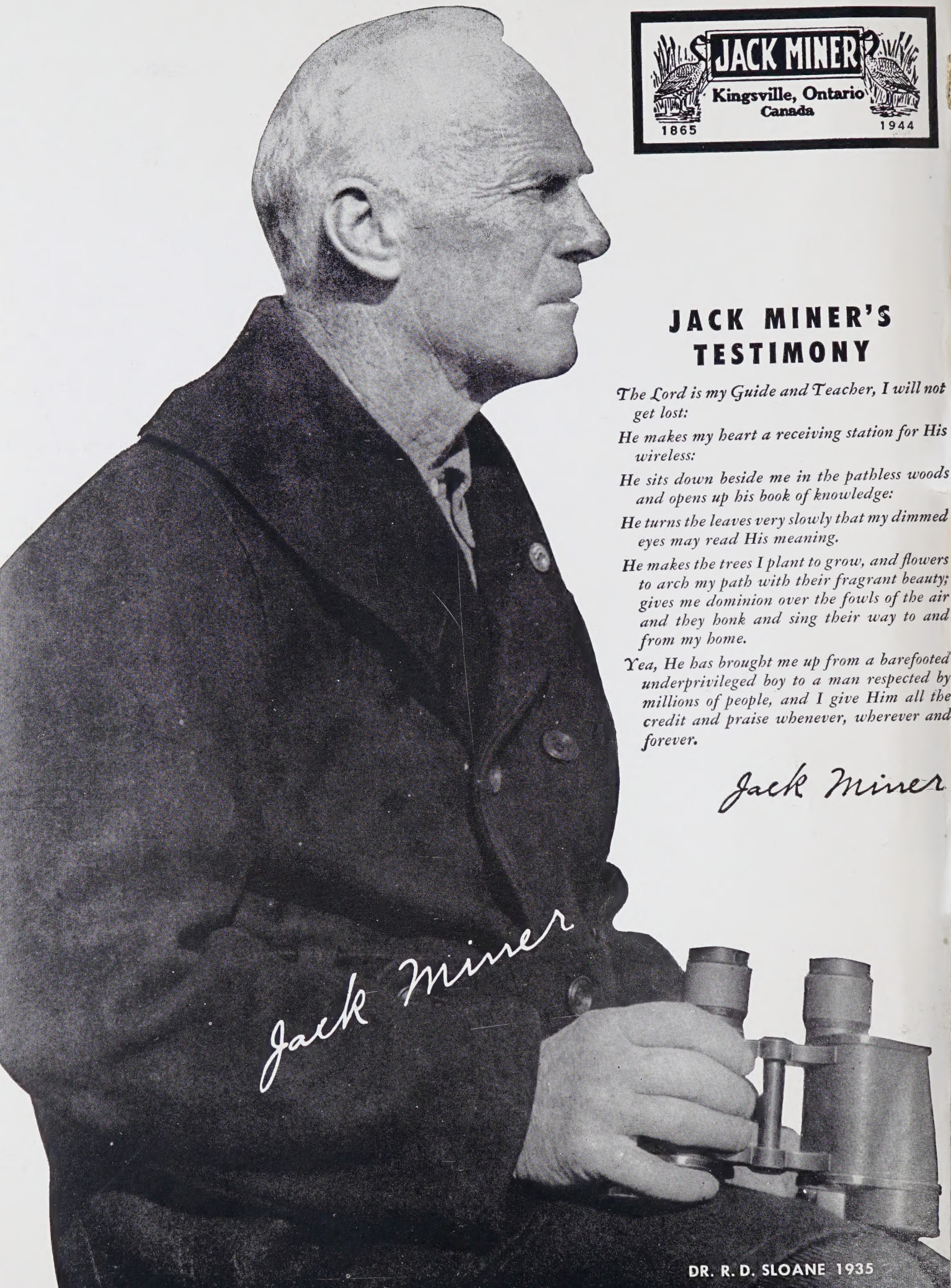

JACK MINER'S TESTIMONY

The Lord is my Guide and Teacher, I will not get lost:

He makes my heart a receiving station for His wireless:

He sits down beside me in the pathless woods and opens up his book of knowledge:

He turns the leaves very slowly that my dimmed eyes may read His meaning.

He makes the trees I plant to grow, and flowers to arch my path with their fragrant beauty; gives me dominion over the fowls of the air and they honk and sing their way to and from my home.

Yea, He has brought me up from a barefooted underprivileged boy to a man respected by millions of people, and I give Him all the credit and praise whenever, wherever and forever.

Jack Miner

DR. R. D. SLOANE 1935

JACK MINER

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A FEW HIGHLIGHTS OF JACK MINER'S CAREER AND ACHIEVEMENTS

APRIL 10, 1865 — NOVEMBER 3, 1944

On April 10, 1865 when the late Jack Miner was born in Dover Centre, Ohio, a suburb of Cleveland, little did his parents realize that his life and career when he died on November 3, 1944 some seventy-nine years later that over five thousand messages of sympathy would reach his family — messages from Kings, Queens, Presidents, Governors, Prime Ministers, preachers and statements from the man on the street. The U.S. newspapers through a poll had rated him the fifth best known man in private life on the continent with only Ford, Edison, Lindbergh and Rickenbacker preceding him.

In 1904 when he was but thirty nine years of age when he created or founded his Bird Sanctuary which bears his name, little did he realize that today some sixty one years later it would have proven such a successful conservation program that the U.S. Federal Government would have created 280 such refuges consisting of seventeen million acres. This does not include the Provincial and State Game Preserves. If anyone doubts this statement check the dates of your local refuge system and see if any precedes the date of February 1904.

In 1909 he conceived the idea of banding waterfowl; we say conceived because it was definitely original with him because in August 1909 he banded a mallard duck by putting an aluminum band on its leg which bore Jack Miner's Post Office Box number in Kingsville and on January 10, 1910 it was shot by Dr. W. E. Bray of Anderson, South Carolina. This constitutes the first complete record of when a duck was banded and when and where shot.

In 1915 after having banded over 50,000 ducks, mostly surface feeding ducks, he turned his mind and thoughts to catching and banding Canada Geese. Being the first man to band mass numbers of ducks he looked for greater fields by studying the migration of this the largest game bird in America, the Canada Goose. He had to invent his own nets to trap them which meant he rebuilt his trap twenty times. Today, 1965, there have been banded some 60,888 Canada Geese and recaught 40,000 geese that had been previously banded over the fifty years of banding at the Jack Miner Sanctuary.

All these banding records were given to the Federal Governments of both U.S. and Canada which especially in the early years were used solely to enable the Government officials to determine where to create sanctuaries or refuges where any excessive kill took place.

In 1906 only two years after he had inaugurated and built his Sanctuary and planted 53,000 trees and shrubs the press had featured his activities so much in syndicated articles that the largest paper in Minneapolis referred to him as "the father of the Conservation movement on the continent."

In 1910 with only three months' education and what he had learned about Nature was first hand by being in the open fields, he started on lecture tours to raise money to finance his conservation program and believe it or not for thirty years between the years 1910 - 1940 he filled the largest auditorium in both U.S. and Canada and on several occasions the late Hon. Alfred Smith when he was Mayor of New York and later Governor of New York State introduced him (Jack Miner) as "The Billy Sunday for the Bird family." One of his last speeches in U.S. was in Chautauqua auditorium where there were 8,000 paid admission and the Philadelphia Symphony Orchestra furnished the music; while in Winnipeg in 1923 he spoke to 13,000 people in three days. The family of the late Jack Miner feels the crowning speech of his career was on April 9th, 1927 when Hon. Herbert Hoover, President of the U.S., was guest of honor at the Izaak Walton League banquet in the Sherman Hotel, Chicago and whom did they choose as their guest speaker? None other than Jack Miner. Many people feel that the enthusiasm he raised through his lectures was his greatest contribution to International Conservation.

In 1929 Jack Miner was awarded the Outdoor Life Gold Medal "for the greatest achievement in Wild Life Conservation on the Continent during 1929 — Eastern Award", the first time the award was given a Canadian.

In 1936 when King George V of Great Britian was observing his 25th Anniversary as reigning Monarch of the British Empire, the House of Lords and House of Commons in London, England arranged a world wide radio program on which the King spoke and was followed by a citizen in every country of the Commonwealth. Jack Miner was chosen to give the five minute address on his theme of Conservation. While Jack Miner sat in his home in Kingsville, Ontario to give the address the Rt. Hon. Mackenzie King, Prime Minister of Canada, sat in the Canadian Parliamentary Chambers, both hooked up to the world wide broadcast, and introduced Jack Miner as "Canada's beloved Naturalist." This five minute address by Jack Miner brought letters of praise by the thousands from sixty-five countries throughout the civilized world.

In the late 30's when Senator David Croll was Mayor of Windsor, His Majesty King George VI and Her Majesty the Queen visited Windsor, Ontario. Hon. David Croll named Jack Miner as honorary chairman of the welcoming committee. About a quarter million (250,000) people lined the banks where the train was to pass through, with loud speakers having been erected every one hundred feet. At the appointed time Jack Miner took his place on the reception platform and as the train was three hours late the Mayor announced over the loud speaker that Jack Miner our beloved Naturalist had arrived to help welcome their Majesties. As this was announced over the loud speakers that mass crowd rose to their feet and the next day the Detroit newpapers and press of the land carried these headline words: "Jack Miner, Canada's Most Famous and Beloved Naturalist Given Ovation of a King."

In June, 1943 one year before Jack Miner's death the King of England, King of the British Empire and King of the Commonwealth, bestowed upon Jack Miner the O.B.E. (Order of the British Empire) with a citation which read: "For the greatest achievement in Conservation in the British Empire."

On April 17, 1947 as Jack Miner's national monument the members of the house of Commons and Canadian Senate created by a special act of Parliament what is known at National Wild Life Week when during the week of April 10 which was Jack Miner's birthday all schools, colleges, universities, sportmen's organizations, audubon societies, churches, service clubs observe the week as an educational week in memory of Jack Miner whom the Hon. Leslie Frost, Q.C., LL.D., D.C.L., Prime Minister of Ontario, referred to as "Canada's greatest Naturalist".

In the April issue 1949 of Canadian Forest and Outdoors Dr. Harrison F. Lewis then Chief of The Canadian Wild Life Service said (quote) "The most famous name in the annals of Canadian Wild Life Conservation is that of the late Jack Miner. Jack Miner enjoyed wild creatures, he thought and acted to meet their needs and he made outstanding use of his exceptional gift to enlist several millions of people as supporters of Wild Life Conservation. Much of the present day recognition of the value of Wild Life Conservation stems from the work of Jack Miner".

On April 10, 1965 — the 100th Anniversary of Jack Miner's birth — The Essex County Historical Society in conjunction with the Archives and Historical Society of the Province of Ontario erected a bronze plaque or marker at the Jack Miner Sanctuary.

PUBLISHER'S PREFACE

At the time of Jack Miner's death Nov. 3, 1944 the press throughout both Canada and the U.S. as well as leading papers throughout the world devoted lengthy editorial space to pay him tribute. We feel that for the benefit of the unborn and future generations that they would be interested in the following editorials clipped from leading papers clear across Canada from Halifax to Vancouver which will let them know the esteem in which Jack Miner was held and how he was looked upon as an authority on Conservation and Game Management.

1865 *Jack Miner* 1944

HE STILL LIVES

(Nov. 4, "St. Catharines Standard," in part)

As long as the Canada goose flies, Jack Miner lives. At the ripe old age of 79, he passed away at his home in Kingsville, after an illness of only an hour or two. He was living with his feathered friends during the morning.

It was "Grey Owl" who made pets of his beaver colony and who spent the last years of his life preaching conservation in the forests. Men of the calibre of Jack Miner should be enshrined as noble examples in the hearts of all true sportsmen, men who today are finding zest and life in the northern hunt. Because they are the beneficiaries in perpetuity of the conservation, as laid down by the pathfinders and the intimate students of wild life. From them come sane laws, sporting practices. Conservation does not mean hoarding; it provides for the balance of Nature, the same as a poultryman culls his flock or a stockman trims his herd.

JACK MINER

(Nov. 15, "Family Herald and Weekly Star" Montreal, Que., in part)

"Time, like an ever-rolling stream, bears all its sons away" — but there is one whose memory, I hope, will long stay green, and that is Jack Miner. This grand old man has gone to meet the Master of his life and of all the wild things he loved so well. He had a full life of nearly eighty years, and he must have attained a satisfaction which comes to few of us in this world of woe and disappointment.

Jack Miner was a great Canadian and a fine Christian gentleman. More than any of us, he endeavoured to awaken in his fellowmen a love for their wild kindred. The measure of his success cannot be charted in words or in granite, but I hope it will be more enduring than either.

TRANS-CANADA RADIO TRIBUTE BY LORNE GREENE ON BORDEN'S "CANADIAN CAVALCADE"

(Nov. 22, from Toronto)

A month or so ago, as it must come to all men, death came to Jack Miner of Kingsville, Ontario. Everyone in all the Americas and beyond the seas mourned the loss of a friend, a Canadian, a Christian.

At the age of seventy-nine, but with the vitality and energy of a youth, Jack Miner has lived a life which will be an inspiration for generations to come. His life in the open made him a friend to the birds, wildfowl and man.

Jack Miner travelled on lecture tours from the far south to Alaska, speaking on the things he loved best, —the outdoor life, the birds, their ways and habits. He was a friend to all, loved by old and young alike.

JACK MINER

(Nov. 6, "Niagara Falls Review")

A great and kind soul has left us in the person of Jack Miner of Kingsville, the friend of the birds. He devoted his life to their welfare and because of his life there are millions of people who have a kindlier thought for our feathered cousins. There are many men who used to think of birds as targets, who now see them as friends, because of the great work of Jack Miner.

JACK MINER

(Nov. 4, Vancouver, B.C., "Province," in part)

Long ago, Ralph Waldo Emerson put an old truth into graphic words when he said, in a lecture: "If a man can write a better book, preach a better sermon or make a better mousetrap than his neighbour, though he build his house in the woods, the world will make a beaten path to his door."

Jack Miner was such a man as Emerson described. Only it was not the world of men that made a beaten path to his door, but the world of birds, and the path was beaten out through the skies, not on the ground. For Jack Miner was the friend of all birds, provided them with sanctuary and fed them.

FRIEND OF FEATHERED FOLK

(Nov. 4, "Toronto Daily Star," in part)

A good cause may fail for lack of a good leader. Men, and the boys who will be tomorrow's men, are in fact more susceptible to leadership than to causes. The leadership of the late Jack Miner in the cause of kindliness to birds and other wild things probably did more to protect wild life in Canada than all the school-room advice which was given in the same period.

Mr. Miner's influence on behalf of his feathered friends extended far beyond his bird sanctuaries. He became internationally known, and his example was followed by many who had read of his lifelong devotion to the cause which he espoused. His interest in it, and his banding of birds so as to trace their flight, enabled him to make a substantial contribution to scientific knowledge. He was a fine Canadian. In his death at 79, the country suffers a real loss.

THE BIRDS WERE HIS FRIENDS

(Nov. 4, "Toronto Globe and Mail," in part)

Nature-lovers and admirers of a delightful and kindly character will mourn the death of Jack Miner of Kingsville. Birds were his particular friends; he was their trusted host. Annually thousands of these aerial travellers stopped at his sanctuary for rest and refreshment.

This delightful character did not seek fame, but fame sought him out. Without direct association with public life, he was among the best known men in North America, and was honoured by some twenty societies. He could wear many decorations bestowed upon him in recognition of his work as a naturalist.

Why did so many people scattered throughout the continent honour Jack Miner? Because of his lovable disposition, his love of wild things and his familiarity with Nature's secrets. His life was humble and serene, but he was happy, and hosts of kindred souls were made happy also by his activities and the stories of his experiences so close to Nature. Edgar A. Guest expressed the thought of Jack Miner's innumerable friends when he wrote:

"From pole to pole the wildfowl have spread
Jack Miner's fame;
The youngest goose in Canada by now has
learned his name.
And so to old Jack Miner this simple thought
I pen:
He's better known in bird life than in the
haunts of men!"

JACK MINER

(Nov. 4, "Prince Rupert News," B.C., in part)

He originated the idea of protecting, feeding, and conserving wild bird life in a sanctuary which became a shrine for bird lovers everywhere in North America. He was indeed a unique figure in Canadian life.

THE PASSING OF JACK MINER

(Nov. 9, "Exeter Times-Advocate)

Jack Miner was one of Nature's gentlemen. He was strong physically and mentally. He knew the discipline of grim necessities squarely met and of hard work well done, meanwhile following out steadily the nobler and finer things of life. He was clean in word and thought and deed. His bird sanctuary, and his farm, and his yards were models of neatness. He was a genuine naturalist, rather than a man of theories. What he spoke of he knew at first-hand. His addresses to young people were the outcome of first-hand direct experience. In his own realm, it was a wide one, he was a voice and no echo. He was an out-and-out independent thinker. His sanctuary was not only well known all over Canada but throughout the world. We wonder who will rise to take his place as a man and as a genuine Christian.

NATURE MOURNS A FRIEND

(Nov. 4, "Windsor Daily Star," in part)

Where the tropical sun beats down on the steaming equatorial jungles, where the forests of the Northland lie in rich, cool greenness, even where the cold winds sweep about the Arctic wastes, the sad news will be carried, "Uncle Jack" Miner is dead.

He did great good. The world is a better place because he lived out his lengthy span of years. Nor will his work die with him. The influence of such men lives on and on, and he had reared fine stalwart sons to carry along the service which he performed.

ONE OF CANADA'S BUILDERS GONE

(Nov. 6, "Quebec Chronicle Telegraph" Quebec, in part)

The life story of Jack Miner who has just passed on at a good old age reflects credit on his native country and should be an inspiration to the Canadians who come after him. Of an old Roman this obituary tribute was once paid: "If you seek his monument, look around." That can be said with equal truth of Jack Miner, whose sanctuary for bird life at Kingsville, Ont., remains as a unique, ever-living monument to its creator.

In a very real sense, Jack Miner has been one of the builders of Canada; a pioneer whose work has been recognized with international acclaim. In a material sense it brought him little wealth, but in spirit and in friendships he was one of our millionaires. True happiness was his through his surroundings and his achievements. Though we shall miss him we will not mourn for his passing in the fullness of years, with his life's work secure; neither will we offer sympathy to his relations, rather do we congratulate them on the wonderful heritage that is theirs.

JACK MINER BUILT OWN MEMORIAL

(Nov. 6, "Montreal Gazette," in part)

Jack Miner is dead, but he left a lasting memorial in the fruits of his own life work as both a protector and internationally respected authority on wildlife, especially birds. To him it was a labor of love, of unceasing devotion which extended to the very day of his death. He asked nothing more than the personal satisfaction he gained from the preservation of wild birds and the accumulation of an unrivalled fund of first-hand knowledge on their nature, capacities and habits.

Mr. Miner also contributed a great deal to the development of the tourist trade in Canada, both through writings and lecturing as well as through the fame of his bird sanctuary. Another effort to which he devoted himself was reforestation, and he succeeded some years ago in bringing about the development of windbreaks across the western provinces.

A devoutly religious man with tremendous enthusiasm and energy, Mr. Miner's life work contributed greatly in the conservation of Canada's wild creatures and to the pleasure and knowledge of Canadians. His death is a loss to Canada and to the world, but the value of what he did while living can never be lost.

JACK MINER

(Nov. 6, "Lethbridge Herald," Alberta, in part)

Mr. Miner was a conservationist. He loved Nature. On visits to the West, he urged the planting of shelter belts and the conservation of our water resources. He also introduced the idea of bird sanctuaries in Canada to provide spots where migratory birds en route spring and fall could rest in peace, protected from the hunters. These sanctuaries have spread throughout Canada. We have two in Lethbridge, one on the river front, and one at Henderson Lake. Park Lake on the Lethbridge Northern is another. They are memorials to Jack Miner, a great naturalist because he was a lover of Nature.

JACK MINER

(Nov. 6, "Sherbrooke Record," Quebec, in part)

The world-wide fame which was accorded to Jack Miner, great Canadian wild-life conservationist, whose death occurred on Friday afternoon, is an outstanding proof that an individual can acquire citizenship of the world without being a soldier, a statesman or a financier. Certainly in none of these lines of activity did Jack Miner shine, but his name became a household word in almost every section of the globe and he brought to his adopted home in Kingsville, Ontario, a fame such as it is the privilege of few places to receive.

The continent, and especially its lovers of wild life is infinitely poorer by his passing.

CANADA'S GREAT NATURALIST

(Nov. 4, "Victoria Times," B.C., in part)

Death came yesterday to Jack Miner. His name was synonymous with Canada's bird life conservation. He was 79 and active until a sudden heart seizure took him.

Few passings will leave so warm an appreciation of the enrichment of life as his. He worked among and for those creatures of the air which have brought light and joy to human hearts. His death might seem a breaking of those earthbound fetters which hold man to the common round, an unfolding of wings to carry forth a gentle spirit.

The world honoured Jack Miner for his care of migratory birds, and men and governments assisted him in his maintenance of his conservation program. But his greatest satisfaction came from his knowledge of a job well done. He has written a chapter on human endeavour which will continue to shine; he helped the birds and they were his friends.

JACK MINER

(Nov. 9, "Bracebridge Gazette," Ontario, in part)

Not only Ontario but all North America lost a great man last Friday when Mr. Jack Miner, O.B.E., died at his home at Kingsville, Essex County, aged seventy-nine years. Mr. Edgar A. Guest, the great poet, has referred to him as "the best loved Christian in America," and the late Irvin S. Cobb, famous writer and motion picture star, called him "the greatest practical naturalist on the planet."

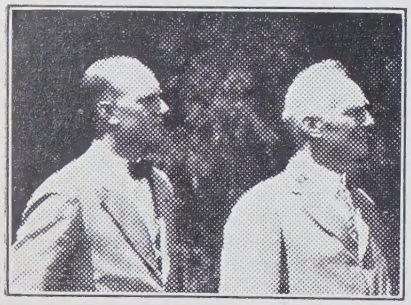
Articles by or about Mr. Miner have appeared in countless newspapers and magazines not only in Canada and the United States but throughout the rest of the civilized world. He has been listened to with rapt attention by audiences in halls and by radio fans. His achievements have been a great advertisement for Ontario. Some time ago an Ontario resident, visiting in one of the southeastern states, Georgia, if I remember aright, was told by a school child "I know where Ontario is, it's where Jack Miner's bird sanctuary is," and the child then showed an article in a school reader describing the famous sanctuary. Jack Miner is dead —but his fame will never die!

JACK MINER

(Nov. 4, "Prince Rupert Empire," B. C.)

If there were enough men like the late Jack Miner, wars would take a violent slump. He passed away in Ontario last evening—this humane, enlightened man. He was a student of Nature; a lover of creatures of the wild, and they came to know and trust and love him.

His sanctuary for wild geese became widely known. He was honoured for his services, in a variety of ways. He commenced his work in a small and obscure fashion, and it grew in a way that exceeded fondest expectations. Jack Miner is dead but his name will live.



LOSE PROTECTOR OF WILD LIFE

(Nov. 9, "Hanna Herald," Alberta)

In the death of the well known Canadian naturalist, Jack Miner, at Kingsville, Ontario, last week there passed from life one of Canada's most outstanding protectors and lovers of bird life. It was Jack Miner who, in the early days at the turn of the century, found ways and means of studying the habits and migration routes of many of our wild birds, particularly ducks and geese. There is no doubt that his work has greatly contributed to the work now being done by many organizations for the preservation of our waterfowl and other game.

Jack Miner was a hero in the hearts of all Canadian boys who were lovers of wildlife. His simple, everyday life was an inspiration to all, and his work among the birds and animals taught many people the finer things in life.

Typical of Jack Miner are a few lines published in his book, "Jack Miner and the Birds," in which he tells of one of Nature's struggles between two eagles and a band of geese, which took place at his sanctuary. In this particular outdoor drama, he relates how the birds settled their dispute without harm to each other, and after witnessing the scene he recalls an old family song and applies it to mankind as follows:

"If I were Queen of France,
Much more the Pope of Rome,
I would have no fighting men abroad
Nor weeping maids at home;
All this world would be at peace,
Every King should have his rights,
For I'd have them that make the quarrels
Be the only ones to fight."

Such was the outlook on life of this famous man. Truly his creed of "live and let live" is an example to all people. Canada has lost an outstanding man, one who stood for all that is Canada and the Canadian way of life. His work shall never be forgotten, and in the writings on Canadian natural history the name of Jack Miner will have an outstanding place."

THEIR FRIEND

(Nov. 8, "Halifax Herald," Nova Scotia, in part)

Wild life never had a greater friend nor a more devoted champion than Jack Miner.

A great Canadian naturalist, he was internationally known and honoured. His famous bird sanctuary became a model for similar institutions in other lands.

A quiet, unassuming man, great lover of all living things, his influence, teaching and example have been a salutary inspiration to youth and a tower of strength to all humane organizations with their plea and program — justice, kindness and mercy to every living creature.

CANADIAN NATURALIST JACK MINER DIES

(Nov. 9, "Yarmouth Light," Nova Scotia, in part)

Miner was a deeply religious man and carried his religion into everyday life. He was fond of talking about religion and made many references to it in his writings.

A keen student of the Bible, Jack Miner tried a little evangelism on his own account with his geese as missionaries. When he tagged a goose, in addition to his name and address, he had a verse from the Bible stamped on the tag.

This practise once gave a sudden and vigourous stimulus to revivalism among the negroes of a southern community. A negro had shot one of Jack Miner's tagged geese and when he found the Biblical quotation on its leg took it as a heaven-sent message. The rest of the community shared his view and the dead goose was the cause of a stirring revival, of much praying and preaching.

UNCLE JACK MINER WAS MY FRIEND, TOO

(Dec. 7, by Pratt Kuhn, Winnipeg Newspaper Union, in part)

"Man proposes, God disposes," and there is no questioning the decision. "Uncle Jack" has gone home.

"Uncle Jack," as he was known to countless thousands in the West, passed away honoured, full of years, and, as any man would wish, suddenly right after a visit to his bird friends, where he had been all morning. Being a man of vision as well as a worker, he had so organized the Miner Sanctuary that it will be carried on and be his everlasting memento. His body is temporarily entombed in a nearby mausoleum and later will be buried on his Sanctuary, where his feathered friends can visit and we pray that in the future they will be as well looked after as in the past.

NATURALIST AND FRIEND

(Nov. 11, "Toronto Saturday Night," in part)

The owner and operator of a tile-yard at Kingsville, Ontario, was a friendly chap, whether with the hunting crowd in the duck season or with the ordinary neighbours to be found in the streets and churches of a gracious small town. Spring and Fall were his joyous days, for the district was on the main course of bird migration. The wild geese could be heard every night as they were passing over, and on several mornings he found a few pairs taking a rest in the little ponds which filled the clay excavations he and his men had made. Instead of shooting the birds, he threw them some corn. Such was the beginning of the wild bird preserve known all over America today as Jack Miner's place.

As a lecturer — a talker, he always said — he was favorably known in many cities, and as a friend, everywhere. His death will not end the work he began. The Sanctuary continues under the direction of his son.

GREAT MEN

(Nov. 16, "Western Producer," Saskatoon, Sask., in part)

The day that Jack Miner died, Sir John Dill, chief of staff of the British Army during the most critical time in Britain's history, also passed away. Concerning the momentary importance of the two men there would probably be no dispute. The death of Sir John Dill might mean the difference between the success and failure of a campaign, the lives and deaths of hundreds and thousands of men. The passing of Jack Miner would have no immediate effect on anyone outside his narrow family circle. And yet, fifty years from now for every person who knows who Sir John Dill was, there will be a thousand who remember Jack Miner.

TOM BROPHY'S COLUMN IN "THE WINDSOR DAILY STAR"

(In part)

Jack Miner will live as long as men appreciate the glories and wonders of Nature. His name has been written indelibly into the consciousness of millions of boys and girls on this continent and they will remember, long, long after the last funeral eulogy has echoed away into nothingness. And even the birds of the air will remember, paying regular season visits to his shrine, the Sanctuary he has built for them.

Jack Miner will live as long as the people of this blessed country remember that they are sprung from the good earth, and that the Divine Providence looking down is not too busy with man's misdeeds to note the little sparrow's fall.

Jack Miner will live as long as men remember that flowers and birds are beautiful . . . parts of God's creation to be cherished and protected. . . Jack Miner is timeless. He belongs not to his generation, nor to the generation of his children, or his grand-children

— but to all time. His abiding faith in God, his love of Nature, his oneness with things of the fields, the heavens, and the streams of earth will endure. . . When all our bodies have been reduced to dust—these will remain.

A LIFE WELL LIVED

(Nov. 9, "Kingsville Reporter," Jack Miner's home town paper)

The homage paid today to "Uncle Jack" Miner is a tribute to a life completely lived. He has been a great naturalist — one of the world's leaders in that field. He has been a lecturer and public speaker of unusual ability. His life work has included that of the Christian missionary in his bird-flown messages to the Arctic and the southern States. His methods and approach have been ingenious. In his days as a maker of brick and tile he was considered a good business man. From these and many other conclusions we could well assess his life as well-rounded and complete.

But there has been more to Jack Miner's life than any list of accomplishments, however lengthy. His unselfishness has been one of his most attractive attributes. Thoughtfulness for wild life has been only an example of an unselfish character filled with consideration for his fellowmen. "My dear people," — his favourite salutation in addresses — is symbolic of his intense interest in men and women of every class and creed.

Mr. Miner's wild life message earned him a position of respect. Without his message he probably would not have been widely known. Yet he has not used that message as an end in itself. Rather has it been a vehicle for transporting his ideals of life. He has given much information to the public. Government bodies throughout the continent have taken his counsel on wild life matters. Private citizens and school children have learned much about nature through reading and listening to his expositions. They gained more than information. It was not his knowledge which impressed them as much as it was his personality — the man himself.

JACK MINER

Tribute by Edgar A. Guest, of Detroit, Michigan. This poem appeared in several hundred newspapers.

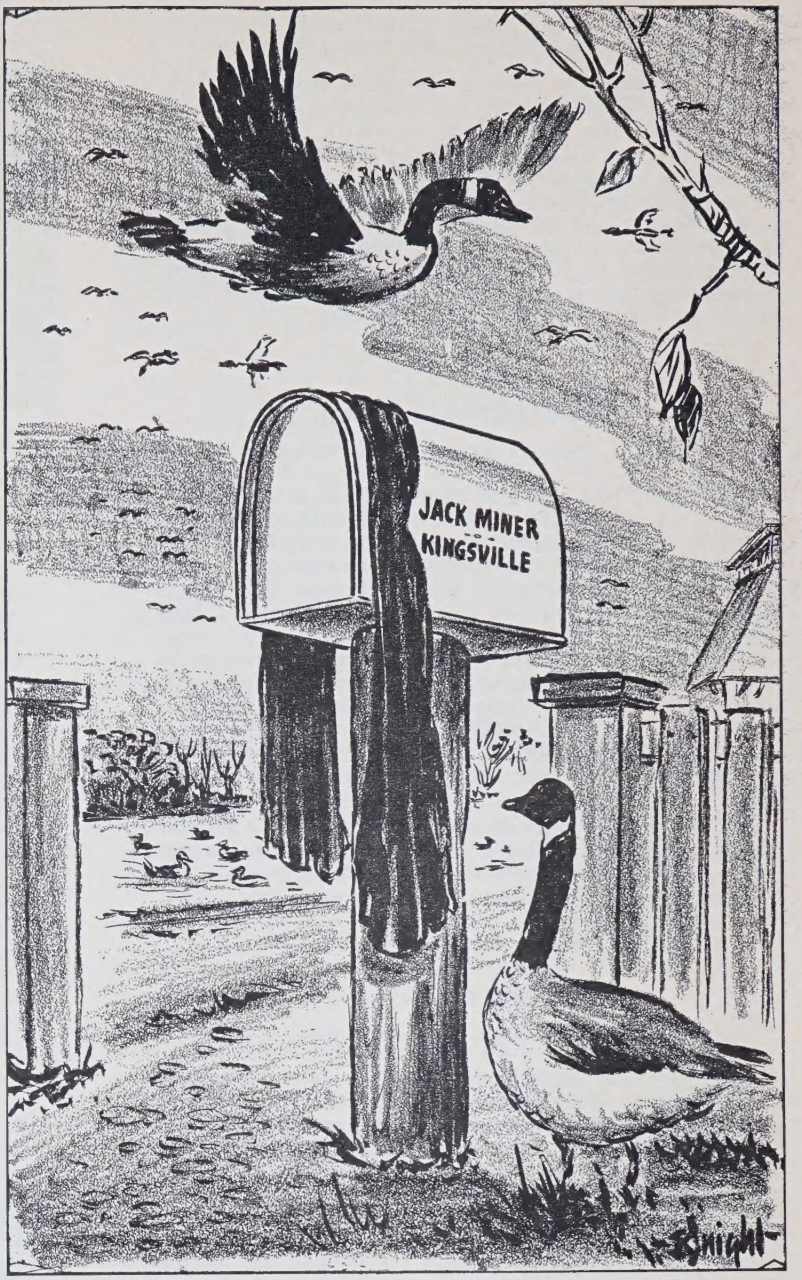
"When the geese come back in the Spring
And they learn that their friend has gone,
I wonder will they take to wing
And try to follow him on?

When they look for their friend again
As they've done in the years before,
Will they stay with us who remain
Or seek him the wide world o'er?

They loved him, the young and the old,
Wild geese and the whistling swan!
What then, when the flocks are told
The man who was kind is gone?

There were hunters wherever they flew,
And snares for the careless wing.
Now, they'll grieve for the friend they knew
When the birds come back in the Spring."

"FARE YE WELL OLD FRIEND"



Jack Miner, the Canadian naturalist, died at his home and bird sanctuary, Kingsville, Ontario, on Friday, November 3. The following day the above etching by Knight appeared in The Windsor Daily Star. Jack Miner's body is temporarily entombed in a mausoleum, but will later be taken to his home and bird sanctuary to be buried among the flowers and birds which surrounded his life. Jack Miner was in his eightieth year and received practically all the honours in his field of activity, being the only Canadian to receive the Outdoor Life Gold Medal. As an Empire recognition, His Majesty, King George VI. conferred upon him the O.B.E. Eddie Guest, the Detroit poet, always referred to him as "The Best loved Christian in America." The late Irvin S. Cobb, writer, used to always refer to Jack Miner as "The greatest practical naturalist on the planet." The last edition of The Books of Knowledge named him one of the fifteen great men of the world.

EDITORIALS since JACK MINER'S death

WONDER OF THE WORLD

To visit the Jack Miner Bird Sanctuary these November days is to witness one of the wonders of the world. There one can see many thousands of wild fowl, mostly geese, resting and feeding after their long flight from Hudson Bay area. How these birds can wing their unerring way from those vast reaches to the fields and ponds which comprise the Sanctuary is beyond the explanation or comprehension of human beings.

It is equally interesting to speculate upon how they know the Sanctuary fields are safe and others in the neighborhood are not, how they know to fly high until they are over the Sanctuary and when to descend in safety.

One has but to see this sight to appreciate the tremendous achievement of Jack Miner, now being so sincerely and competently developed by his sons. To put it on a merely material basis, these fine game birds are being preserved for the sport of hunters, instead of becoming extinct.

Mr. Miner's accomplishment was the result of a deep love of Nature and of the finer things of Nature. These wild geese, each and every one that calls at the Sanctuary spring and autumn, are flying tributes to him, spreading his fame over a vast continent.

Editorial — The Windsor Daily Star. Nov. 14, 1952.

JACK MINER

By Jack Herity
Belleville. Ontario

He must pack a heap of pleasure
Underneath his shaggy dome;
Now it's getting on to autumn
And his birds are coming home.
It must stir up all his senses
In a kind of inside grin
When he gazes down the Southway and
See his squadrons winging in.

Must be like a mighty merchant,
When his ships come one by one,
To the harbor where there's quiet
And retreat from pirate's gun.
Pirates! That's the right name for us,
Oh, I'm guilty, same as you,
For I've often sen them tumbling,
Broken, tattered, from the blue.

I have lain for hours listening
For that throbbing cry,
And to see an old commander
Lead his flock across the sky;
But — well there above the fireplace
You can see my guns today,
And they're mighty ornamental
Since I went down Kingsville way.

Angels used to be right common,
If I believe what I've heard say;
But a scientist will tell you
We don't have such things today.
Still I guess if we could see things
In a sort of spirit light,
We would find Jack Miner's raiment
Is a robe of shining white.

THE RIGHT HON. W. L. MACKENZIE KING

PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA

at the time of Jack Miner's, the Canadian naturalist, death, in paying the nation's tribute to him, said:

Wild Life Research and Wild Life Management is a new field of endeavour as compared to medicine and agriculture. Jack Miner believed in research because, in 1909, when he pioneered in banding waterfowl in great numbers to learn what percentage was shot in Canada, in the United States, and in each state or province, this was research.

The great work done by the late Jack Miner, our beloved naturalist, is an example of a happy combination of theory and practice with common sense applied which has made Conservation practical. Jack Miner not only preached Conservation but he made a practical demonstration.

Jack Miner said: "Don't become only a statistician because it takes more than a lot of wild life statistics to save our game. What good is our life going to be toward saving our wild fowl if we are going to spend our entire time in piling up a lot of data and figures that never can be used?"

ALL CANADA PAID TRIBUTE TO THE LATE JACK MINER

OTTAWA, Ont.—It is doubtful if ever any citizen and his work, not only in Canada, but throughout the entire world, had the honor, respect and tributes paid him as was paid to the late Jack Miner, Canadian naturalist, during the last week through National Wild Life Week which was created by an act of Parliament on April 17, 1947. This was created by a unanimous vote of the Canadian Members of Parliament and the Canadian Senators. During the week of April 10, which was Jack Miner's birthday, the week is always to be observed as a living memorial to Jack Miner.

Each year more interest is shown in the week which is evidence of the importance of the Conservation work started by the late Jack Miner in 1904. Some 35,000 schools observed it for a month leading up to the week. The press featured it and over 12,000 items appeared. Some 94 radio stations ran daily, weekly news releases and featured broadcasts. Over 1,000 service clubs observed it while 15,000 preachers on Sunday, April 17, made mention of it and paid tribute to Jack Miner from pulpits throughout the Dominion.

Senator Joseph A. Bradette, popular member of the Canadian Senate, in paying tribute to Jack Miner said: "The European countries gave the world great artists, great sculptors, great philosopher and great musicians, but Canada gave the world one of its great naturalists."

(Editorial—Canadian Daily Newspapers Monday, April 18, 1955)

JACK MINER'S PLACE

JACK MINER did not make millions; he wasn't a great scientist nor a vote-catching politician. He was a practical teacher and, to him more than any other, goes the credit for educating the people of this entire continent to the value of conserving wild life.

Jack Miner is know to all adult Canadians, many of whom heard him speak and almost all of whom read some of his articles. (He spoke once in New Glasgow and jammed the Academy of Music.)

But what of generations growing up? Will they remember Jack Miner and his lessons of wild life? Will his name grow dim with the passing of the years?

This paper believes in conserving the greats of our nation. We felt the Bluenose should have been conserved instead of being allowed to rot in a foreign and southern sea.

We feel that steps should be taken to maintain the name of Jack Miner as well as the message he preached across Canada and the United States. In the latter country children are being told about him in the schools. Isn't he worthy of a place in the books of the country which reared him and where he stayed, even after he had become famous?

We think so.

(Editorial — New Glasgow News, November 26, 1948)

TRIBUTE TO JACK MINER

THE WORLD'S GREAT NATURALIST

Sir: I have had the great pleasure of reading your fine editorial on the fiftieth year of the Jack Miner Sanctuary, and I congratulate you for its excellence.

More and more, as time goes on, people are beginning to realize that the Jack Miner Sanctuary is the most important migratory bird haven, as well as the best conducted, on the North American continent.

Also are they so realizing that the late well-beloved Jack Miner was — and still is — far ahead of the times, and of the so-called wildlife scientists who have ever tried to upset his contentions and observations — and failed, in all respects.

We are mutually fortunate in that Manly, Ted and Jasper Miner are still with us, carrying on the noble work that Jack Miner saw so far on its successful way before he was taken from us by the Supreme Architect of the Universe.

Of many things we may be sure: Jack walked in to assume his rightful niche in Heaven with clean hands, clean heart and a clean mind, as well as all of his other known virtues as a man among men, and a human being who understood and loved the wild creatures he daily studied and tended.

WINSLOW P. HUMPHREY

Old Toll Gate, East Windham, N.Y.
(Reprint from Windsor Daily Star, March 20, 1954)

WHAT BIOLOGISTS SAID OF JACK MINER

MR. ROBERT L. BIRCH, Instructor in Biology of West Virginia College of Arts and Sciences, Morgantown, Va., in a letter dated July 3, 1964 referred to Jack Miner as "the greatest bird bander and humanitarian of all time."

MR. HERBERT BRANDT, Ornithologist, author, after a visit to the Jack Miner Sanctuary since Jack Miner's death said: "Never have I enjoyed a sight more inspiring than Jack Miner's geese! The show that they put up for our party will live forever in our minds, and all of us wish to thank you for your generous hospitality. What the bird lovers of America owe the Miner family, few will realize, yet it must be a source of deep satisfaction for you to know that you have contributed so much to conservation and to science. Not only is Canada to be congratulated by having such a progressive Nature student in its midst, but the whole North American continent is richer because of what the Miners have done, and we of our party wish to click our heels together and salute you doubly: first, for your remarkable sanctuary; and secondly, the able manner in which you conduct your glorious enterprise."

DR. ARTHUR A. ALLEN, Professor of Ornithology, Cornell University, after a visit to the Jack Miner Sanctuary since Jack Miner's death said: "I was greatly pleased with everything I saw at your Sanctuary, not only in the physical plant and the numbers of geese and ducks that were responding to your efforts and the attitude of the visitors, but especially in the sincere effort which you and your brother are putting into the project, in the hope that it may continue to be the outstanding demonstration in wild life conservation in Canada."

ALLAN BROOKS, Bird Artist, said: "I always refer to Jack Miner as one of the few sane conservationists in Canada."

HON. JAY N. DARLING, Wild Life Cartoonist — Conservationist, Chief of The U.S. Wild Life Service, said of Jack Miner: "Wild geese have better memories than men. It is men who forget that the Jack Miner Migratory Bird Refuge is one of the most dramatic projects for wild life that has been created in this generation. A goose that has ever been there never forgets.

"Isn't it strange that museums get hundreds of millions to build imposing stone buildings to fill with stuffed dead birds and animals while Jack Miner's refuge to keep them alive is on a starvation diet?

"There really should be a monument erected to Jack Miner by the friends of wild life, and no more fitting monument could be conceived than to see that his refuge has sufficient funds to live on after he is gone."

WILLIAM R. LONGSTREET, Internationally prominent Conservationist before Jack Miner died said of him: "For many years Jack Miner has increasingly enjoyed the deep respect of all thinking individuals and of governments not only in North America but the world around, greater than the respect accorded kings and princes."

COL. H. J. HEASLEY, D.S.O., President of the National Canadian Conservation Club, said of Jack Miner: "Jack Miner was a very farsighted man and his many observations on bird habits and bird life have proved so interesting to so many people. He was frequently at variance with the teaching of some of our Natural History Professors, but so frequently turned out to be right that he became to be looked upon as an authority."

THE LATE DR. HENRY VAN DYKE in his last letter to Jack Miner said: "Jack Miner, keep up the good work for God, Man and the Birds."

AT THE TIME OF JACK MINER'S DEATH over 5,000 messages of sympathy reached the Jack Miner Family. The following tributes are an outline of the statements expressed towards Jack Miner and his work.

THE RIGHT HONORABLE W. L. MACKENZIE KING, Premier of Canada, said, "Jack Miner has rendered our country great services. The inspiration he has given to young and old of many lands by his life and work will live after him."

HON. JOHN BRACKEN, M.P., Leader of the Progressive-Conservative Party in Canada, said, "Through his efforts Jack Miner has become the most famous Bird Naturalist on the continent. His Bird Sanctuary at Kingsville is the greatest achievement of its kind in North America."

HON. JOHN R. MacNICOL, M.P., said, "I am proud that, through his great work my dear friend Jack Miner earned the right to have his name alongside of Burbank, Pasteur, Bell, Edison, Ford, Grenfell, Banting, Kelvin, Wright and others in the Book of Knowledge."

SENATOR T. A. CRERAR, said, "I doubt if there is in any field of work in Canada, anyone who has rendered a greater national service than Jack Miner."

MR. J. D. DIEFENBAKER, M.P., said, "Jack Miner's career has been one of great service to mankind. Personally I will always regard the three hours spent in his company as the outstanding ones in my life."

MR. EDWARD J. JEFFERIES, JR., Mayor of Detroit, said, "I am not unmindful of the renown brought to us by Jack Miner's great work. His name and fame have been carried to many nations upon the wings of the air."

SENATOR FREDERIC C. WALCOTT, President Wildlife Institute, said, "Jack Miner's Sanctuary deserves to be endowed and handed down from generation to generation. It is well organized, well managed and does untold good. His example in an inspiration to all those who follow."

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS JULIANA said, "The work done by Jack Miner is of utmost value to scientists the world over, and deserves all the recognition it receives now and for all time."

MR. FREDERICK C. LINCOLN, U.S. Wildlife Survey, said, "No one can replace Jack Miner as he was almost an institution."

MR. HENRY FORD, Auto Pioneer, said, "Jack Miner's companionship with the birds and his service to them have made his work known and have warmed the hearts of good people everywhere. He has taught us all that there is always something to do for one who looks for something to do."

BERNARD M. BARUCH, New York Financier, said, "Jack Miner has become a symbol of the whole world of kindness to birds and animals. His work will live after him not only in the hearts of his fellowmen, but in its attitude towards animals and particular birds."

MAJOR MAX C. FLEISCHMAN said, "Jack Miner has left behind him a name and a monument that will live forever perpetuated in the thoughts of everyone who is a believer and advocate of the conservation of wild life."

HON. EARL N. OHMER (Alaska), said, "We people in Alaska wish to say that no man to our knowledge ever did so much for bird life as did Jack Miner."

HON. ROSS L. LEFFLER, President of the Pa. Game Commission, said, "I think that the late Jack Miner and his family have none more to awaken interest in wild waterfowl than anyone else on the North American continent."

GENERAL ELLIOTT C. DILL, President of the Conservation Department of The Sporting Arms and Ammunition Society, said, "It must be tremendously pleasing to Jack Miner's family to see what Jack Miner advocated in the interests of conservation is more and more becoming the accepted formula for leaders in the work of restoration."

MR. CHARLES G. CHAPMAN, President of Michigan Ducks Unlimited, said, "Jack Miner was truly a pioneer in conservation. Even when the supply of waterfowl seemed inexhaustible, he recognized they were seriously imperiled both by the encroachments of civilization and heedlessness of trigger happy hunters. He did probably more than anyone to make people conservation minded as well as adding greatly to our Knowledge of birds. These contributions will continue to exert their influence."

HONORABLE DR. IRA GABRIELSON who for many years was chief of the United States Wild Life Service at a public hearing said, "It is the refuge system which is primarily responsible for saving the waterfowl."

DR. ALBERT H. DAY, who succeeded Dr. Gabrielson in that responsible position as chief of the Wild Life Service, and on January 6, 1948, he said, "The work Jack Miner and his sons have done, stands as a memorial to wild life conservation and protection, and has aroused great interest among people who never before put so much as a single thought to the necessity for refuges and Sanctuaries. As time goes on the Sanctuary concept is becoming more and more accepted as a necessary management tool and the work of Jack Miner has had its full share in spreading this gospel."

JIM STUBER, Ohio Conservation Commission, "A person gets most for his money and for waterfowl by supporting the Miner refuge project."

MARSHALL C. MILLER, "If the nations of the world can live together with as much understanding as do the Miners and the migratory birds, then we shall not have to question our future happiness."

JOHN M. PHILLIPS, "Jack Miner was a great and good man and his wonderful conservation work will perpetuate his memory."

GEORGE MATTHEW ADAMS, "Jack Miner was a great man and did a big job in the world."

OUTDOOR AMERICA, "Jack Miner has, without a doubt, done more towards the conservation and restoration of our waterfowl than any other living individual, thereby also proving the importance of Game Sanctuaries."

JOE A. SUMMERS, "Jack Miner has written his name across the pages of the future in a way which nothing can efface it."

HENRY M. WALLACE, "Jack Miner's straight forward honesty, candor and simplicity of expression won one's heart immediately."

SETH GORDON, Pa. Game Commissioner, "Jack Miner left behind a monument of accomplishments in his chosen field that will always stand as a beacon light for the rest of us to shoot at. I know of no person in all of North America who did more to promote the conservation of our migratory waterfowl and to encourage the establishment of refuges for these birds than did Uncle Jack Miner."

RAY P. HOLLAND, "The Birds are only a small part of the world which was the loser when Jack Miner passed on."

JOHN M. OLIN, "When Jack Miner died I feel that every true American lost a real friend and benefactor. Jack Miner was a true conservationist and above all had the courage of his convictions, the determination to carry on his conservation projects in the face of an apathetic public interest which often resulted in inadequate financial backing."

THE LATE GOVERNOR ALFRED SMITH always introduced Jack Miner as "The Billy Sunday for the bird family."

THE LATE IRVIN S. COBB in his writings always referred to Jack Miner as "the best loved Christian in America."

SENATOR HARRY B. HAWES, "One of the very best minds devoted to sane conservation was Jack Miner, of Canada. He not only had a vision, but he was practical. He did things. He helped make wild life and was constructive as well as intellectually able."

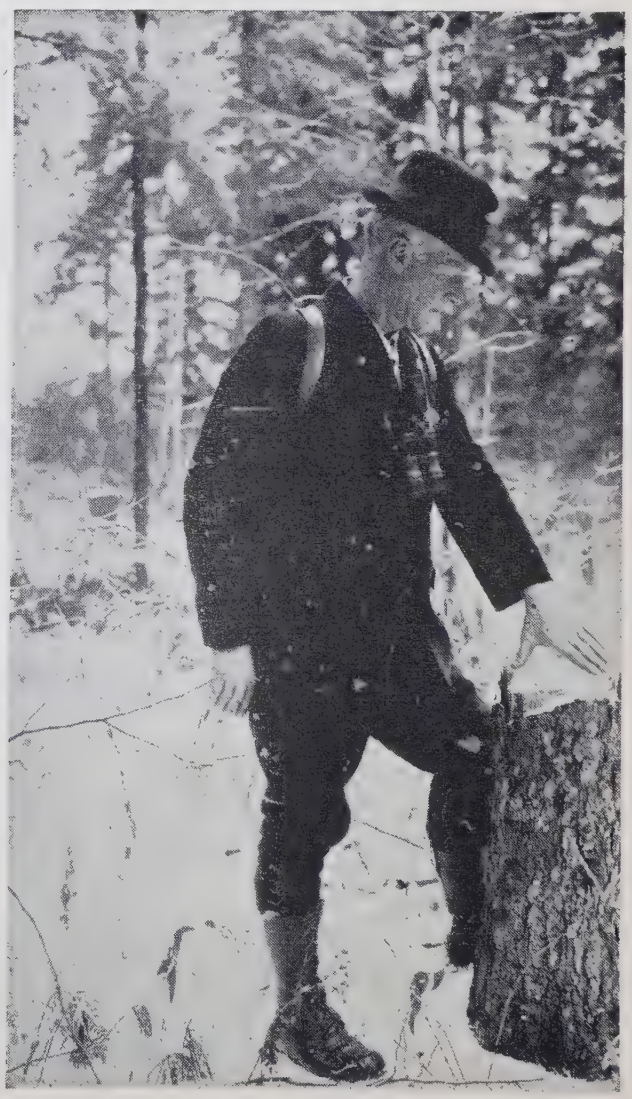
DR. ALDO LEOPOLD, University of Wisconsin, "The Jack Miner Sanctuary is one of the pioneer refuges and has had continual influence in proving the success of the refuge idea."

LORD BENNETT, former Prime Minister of Canada, "Jack Miner made a great contribution to the development of Canada."

HON. GEORGE E. SCOTT, Chicago, Past President of Izaak Walton League, "Jack Miner did a wonderful work for conservation and for the development of human sympathy which he extended not only to the birds but was an influence on the development of human character as well."

SIR ROBERT BORDEN, former Prime Minister of Canada, "Surely every Canadian and indeed every lover of nature should be grateful to Jack Miner for what he has taught us."

EDITORIAL, Ottawa Citizen, "Not Watt but a succession of inventors made the steam engine; not Bell but many electrical experiments made the telphone. Jack Miner in this sense gave us the bird sanctuary."



Jack Miner studies growth of trees in Northern Ontario.

The following Editorial appeared in over 100 leading Canadian papers:-

"Jack Miner — An Honor to Canada

"EDITORIAL, Chatham, Ontario News, and 100 other Canadian papers: "An Honor to Canada. The inclusion of Jack Miner's name among the fifteen great personages of the world is an honor to the man and to Canada, where this great naturalist carried on his work. Others listed are Livingstone, Shakespeare, Burbank, Pasteur, Bell, Edison, Laura Secord, Grenfell, Banting, Lord Kelvin, Churchill, George Washington, Florence Nightingale and John Bunyan. All may not agree that this is the best selection; some may prefer to delete names and add others in their place. But there can be doubt that Jack Miner deserves such recognition, no matter on what basis a list of the world's great men were being prepared. His labor was unique, and its benefits in the conservation of wild life are incalcuable. Although the man himself is dead, the inspiring record of his work must result in that work being continued with the support of private contributions and public grants."

One sentence tributes paid to Jack Miner the last few years — all were made nearly twenty years after Jack Miner's death:-

"April 10, 1865 Jack Miner Nov. 3, 1944

One year before Jack Miner died, King George VI of England bestowed up Jack Miner the O.B.E., with a citation which read, "for the greatest achievement in Conservation in the British Empire." On April 10, 1954, Senator Joseph Bradette, Canadian Senate, in paying tribute to Jack Miner over a nation-wide radio program said: "The European countries gave the world great sculptors, great philosophers, great musicians, but Canada gave the world its great Naturalist, Jack Miner." On April 3, 1959, Mayor Louis C. Miriani of Detroit, Michigan, in issuing a Proclamation of that city honoring Jack Miner referred to Jack Miner as "the world's greatest Naturalist and founder of the Sanctuary which bears his name." On April 11, 1960, The Honorable Leslie Frost, Q.C., LL.D., D.C.L., Prime Minister of Ontario, referred to Jack Miner as "Canada's Greatest Naturalist", while The Honorable Anders O. Aalborg, Minister of Education for Alberta on March 16, 1964 referred to Jack Miner as "Canada's Greatest and Most-loved Naturalist". On April 6, 1964, Mr. H. J. B. Gough, Dept. of Education, Newfoundland, referred to Jack Miner as "Our Nation's Greatest Conservationist". On April 13, 1964, The Windsor Daily Star (Ont.), speaking editorially of Jack Miner, said "The Greatest Conservationist This Continent Has Ever Known."

LOU KLEWER REPORTS ON RACOON PREDATION IN VICINITY OF TOLEDIO, OHIO

Mr. Lou Klewer, outdoor editor of Toledo Blade, and President of The Outdoor Writers of America, on May 17, 1956, in his outdoor column of Toledo Blade reported on the destructiveness of racoon in his area on wild ducks and their nests. His column on that date reads in part:

Racoon Destroy Many Duck Nests

"Since the vogue for long-haired furs went out of fashion and coonskin coats lost their popularity, the racoons in northwestern Ohio have increased to where they have become a menace to not only ground nesting birds but even to all birds nesting in trees and shrubs.

"Recently, on a survey at Magee's Marsh, a state waterfowl preserve and one of the few public duck-hunting marshes in the state, Karl Bednarik found 22 duck dests with a full complement of duck eggs in each one. Long before they had a chance to hatch, however, the racoons also found them and all 22 nests were destroyed and with them the possibility of 22 hatches of wild ducks.

"There is more to this destruction, however, than just the hatch of this year. If this wiping out of nests continues, it may not be long before there will be no ducks nesting in these marshes. Waterfowl, like other birds, tend to return to the places they were born and if no ducks are hatched in this area, it is conceivable that before long there will b0e no ducks nesting in not only Magee's marsh but in most of the other marshes as well.

"A study of the racoon is being made on the Magee marsh at the present time, studying the migration habits of these animals. In one 70-acre tract, 72 racoon were live-trapped, weighed, tagged and released and these were 72 different racoon. The trapping was done this spring and the animals ranked about 50-50 as to sex. With the average female having four young each spring, this would increase the racoon population on these 700 acres by 144 young or a total of 216 racoon this fall.

"The racoon population is also heavy in many of the other marshes and the nest-destroying activities on Magee's marsh also can be expected on the other marshes. Where it will end, no one seems to know as there is not too much interest in trapping racoon by the muskrat trappers. Racoon are too heavy to lug into the skinning shanty from where they are trapped, the fur seldom brings much more than a dollar or so and as a result, no special effort is made to trap the animals. Coon hunting with dogs for sport isn't advocated in the marshes because the best coon season is also duck hunting reason and the night hunting dogs would drive out all the ducks."

Manly F. Miner, son of the late Jack Miner, Canadian Naturalist, commenting on the situation, said that the racoon not only attack the ground nesting ducks but in a recent news release which went clear across the continent the biologists now claim and admit that the racoon which have increased in such numbers, all out of proportion to bird life, are responsible for the decrease in wood ducks which nest in holes in hollow trees.

JACK MINER
HIS PHILOSOPHY and REASONING
By
MANLY F. MINER

Preface

As a preface to this discussion I feel there is no better way than to quote different happenings here at the Sanctuary when Jack Miner was alive and incidents that have happened since his death.

First and foremost he loved his fellow men and any disagreement he is quoted as having was his opinion on certain matters pertaining to Conservation Management or Wild Life Management and some of his discussions with friends became very warm at the time but I personally think he had a right to his opinion on matters as much as a wild life biologist with his Ph.D. but the sad part of it is, I have seen it so often that the wild life biologist with all his schooling and education feels that we common people, in many cases more interested in sound Conservation, don't or shouldn't have even an opinion. So any thing quoted is our difference of opinion and not the individual and as you read the following discussions you will apply common sense. I would like to conclude this Preface by quoting Jack Miner's definition of Common sense when he was asked to define common sense Jack Miner said "It was that sense which was most uncommon."

Canada Geese at the Jack Miner Sanctuary where they find food rest and shelter. The Sanctuary was founded in 1904 and has been copied throughout the U.S. and Canada as well as in different areas in Europe. Each year as many as possible are caught and banded to study their migration routes. The banding process tells where any excessive kill takes place and allows the U.S. and Canadian Govt. a chance to create Sanctuaries in those areas.

JACK MINER'S PHILOSOPHY

From the lecture platform throughout the continent for thirty years the late Jack Miner used to say, "I'm not so religious that I won't boil water in a tea kettle on Sunday but I am a firm believer in the teachings of the scripture and base my reasonings in the field of nature management and control as is outlined in Genesis where it is recorded:

"God created the heavens and earth and every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth, the fish of the sea, the animals on land and the birds of the air he createth He them."

"Then God created man in his own image and the image of God created He him and he said let man have Dominion over the fish of the sea, over the fowl of the air and over the cattle and over all the earth and every living thing that creepeth upon the earth and every living thing that moveth upon the earth."

From these verses of scripture Jack Miner interpreted it to mean that the "balancing of nature" or "nature's balance" was all left with men. That is to say if we want potatoes we must kill the potato bugs; if we want our sheep and herd of cattle to increase we must not kill the female; the same applies to our deer, namely if we want our herd of deer to increase we must not kill the does and fawns. If the sheep dogs attack our sheep we kill the sheep dogs so if the wolves attack and kill our deer we should kill the wolves.

We repeat ourselves and say to the biologist that has been taught that "nature will balance itself" we then say if that be true there is no need of biologists, game wardens or game departments, just let everything go, but Jack Miner's policy was we have to take the tares out of the wheat, the weeds out of the garden, all of which God created but God gave man dominion over over all to decide what he wants both in the field of bird and animal life as well as in the field of agriculture.

Jack Miner's philosophy was that everything was created for man's use and control and that there was no more harm to take the overflow of our bird and animal life for food than there was to take the overflow of our vegetables we eat. He was opposed to slaughter and would illustrate his point this way when he would say, "I would rather see fifty men shoot one goose apiece than I would to see one man shoot fifty geese."

Again here is scriptural teaching along this line when it says in Deuteronomy, Chapter 22 and verses 6 and 7: "If a bird's nest chance to be before thee in a tree or on the

ground whether there be young ones or eggs and the dam (the mother) sitting upon the young or upon the eggs, thou shalt not take the mother with the young but thou shalt in any wise let the dam go and take the young to thee, that it may be well with thee and that thou mayest prolong thy days."

In other words it is all right to take the young or the increase for food but in no wise take the mother that is responsible for the reproduction.

First of all I think where the difference of opinion with Jack Miner and the ornithologists, wild life biologists and zoologists is that he felt they were educated in a different field of endeavor that wild life management and many men in the above three fields were as far apart from wild life management as a professor of medicine and a professor of agriculture because as Jack Miner used to say. "You learn ornithology, biology, zoology by reading but you learn wild life management by doing." In wild life management it might be applicable in one place under certain conditions when it is not applicable elsewhere under another condition — not so with ornithology, biology and zoology because they stay to their line of thought. For illustration, for an ornithologist to learn the number of spots on a woodpecker's tail, or the length of the toe nails on the pheasants on Pelee Island or the name of the feathers under a bird's neck, under its wing, under its leg or under its tail Jack Miner did not concern himself with such ornithological knowledge. As I once heard him tell a professor of ornithology that he never interested himself in the sex life of a yellow bellied sapsucker all he was interested in was the food and health of a bird to produce more of its specie for humanity to see and benefit from.

Jack Miner said the same can be said of biology. Some men spend their time in getting their degree by spending considerable time studying the digestive tracts of a grasshopper or mosquito when a farmer that has had to combat grasshoppers and had never been to a university can tell us more of a grasshopper's activities, behaviour and so forth. The same applies with an Indian, guide or trapper who has lived in the woods all his life who can tell us more about beaver, deer, wolves and other animals in their wild habitat, or a fishermen that has fished the lakes and streams all his life — his practical knowledge is far greater than book learning because one condition in one lake may be different than another lake or stream.

Jack Miner would always say, "I never studied zoology because I always felt there was nothing I could do about it if I did know how many mosquitoes or flies a bull frog devours each day."

When Jack Miner would get on this strain with his fellow men he would always say "get all the education you can and then add the learning." He would end up by being good friends with his so called educated men but would definitely put over his point when he said that their field of endeavour was different than the field of Wild Life Management because the first lesson in Wild Life Management was to set an old Plymouth rock domestic hen on a setting of pheasant eggs in some back fence row on your farm and see what the old hen has to contend with from the time she was placed there. Skunks and around squirrels were after the eggs; raccoon were after both the hen and the eggs. When the eggs hatched, weasel, mink and a small variety of hawk attacked the young: as they grew older a larger variety of hawk and owl were after the young.

These are facts one cannot learn in reading a textbook and were discussed by my father at length with the outstanding biologists of his day and as proof of their friendship continuing with him I direct you to the previous page of tributes by some of the biologists in his day. When some of you young wild life biologists that have not had any practical experience outside the four walls of a school room want to blow your top, read some of your forefathers' statements re Jack Miner and his sincerity.

As I said in the beginning I want to quote different happenings here at the Sanctuary to illustrate my point. In so doing I will take my oath to any statement I may make in the following paragraphs because to some of you they may sound as a joke but I say them honestly and sincerely because these happenings are the best illustration of actual facts and happenings here.

Jack Miner's drain tile wood duck nest at the Jack Miner Sanctuary. Note the duck on her nest. When Jack Miner died in 1944 he had erected a goodly number on his acreage and for many years after his death practically all were occupied. If the figures were known there has been several thousand wood ducks raised on the Jack Miner Sanctuary during the last half century which has migrated all over the eastern half of North America. They even occupied two nests on Jack Miner's front porch. As high as seventy five would stay all winter. Today (1968) they have been exterminated by the great horned owl that has increased all out of proportion. I don't shoot but if a hunter shot a wood duck out of season he would be prosecuted and at the same time the government protects a great horned owl that will take one every night if one can be found.

Some thirty-five years ago one spring morning, frosty and crisp, four biology students from Toronto University came to our Sanctuary only to find my late father Jack Miner in a crotch of a tree erecting a wood duck nest made out of a large drain tile. These students in their early twenties told my father in my presence "that this was interfering with nature and that the wood ducks would find a place to nest." My father replied and stated "man had cut down the hollow trees and it was up to man to provide nesting boxes." What was and is the result? — We had one nest where a wood duck raised as high as three broods in one year. On another occasion my father gathered the wood duck eggs daily and raised them under bantam hens. At one time we had thirty - two nesting in trees and even on our veranda but what has happened is the great horned owl has increased so rapidly that they have taken every wood duck on the place in face of our catching as high as thirty-three great horned owls in one winter in one pole trap. Only this week I was informed by a man one hundred miles away that there is

such an influx and increase in great horned owls that he in two seasons had caught one hundred and thirty-three (133) of these great horned owls commonly known as "Cat Owls".

To get back to the wood duck story the wild life biologists told father thirty-five years ago to put up a wood duck nest was interfering with nature but today practically all States leading in Conservation have erected wood ducks' nests especially in the eastern half of U.S. especially such states as Pennsylvania and New Jersey, and Illinois in the west. They are patterned directly off of the Jack Miner program. Here on the Sanctuary we produced several hundred wood ducks each year that would migrate elsewhere for the benefit of the people of North America until the great horned owl exterminated them here on our grounds. It would be interesting to know how many birds these four wild life biologists have been responsible for the last thirty-five years. The last I heard tell of them they were still telling the public you shouldn't do this and you shouldn't do that and have ended up by doing nothing.

Jack Miner's philosophy re the great horned owl is he felt, as I do feel, it is ridiculous to have laws to prosecute a hunter for shooting a ring necked pheasant out of season and even imprison him if he can't pay his fine while the Government protects a great horned owl that takes a pheasant every night if it can be found, — yes, and even prosecute a man for shooting a great horned owl. In simple language we call this nonsense.

Young wood duck raised on the Jack Miner Bird Sanctuary. The birds are raised and fed on the Sanctuary and before they migrate they are banded to study their route of migration. The Great horned owl has multiplied all out of proportion and during this year 1968 there has not been one wood duck seen on the Sanctuary. The habit of the great horned owl is the same outside the Sanctuary and they clean up on the pheasants' wood ducks and so forth enroute to our Sanctuary.

Here is a great horned owl story which I think will interest you. In the fall of 1931 a man wanted to start a bird Sanctuary in eastern Ontario. He wrote my father re Canada Geese and Dad sent him free of charge and even paid the express on a dozen of our pet young Canada Geese we had raised and with it he sent a letter telling him he would have to trap the great horned owl because especially in his area where the snow became deep the great horned owl would take all his Geese one by one by eating their heads off. Jumping ahead six months when spring came this man had turned out to be a "balance of nature theorist" and wrote my father stating that the great horned owl had killed all his dozen pet Canada Geese father had sent him and "wanted some more." As father read this letter he felt bad but said "there must be something wrong with this man's head when I gave him the geese, told him to kill the great horned owl which he did not do, and then write for more."

In the spring of 1932 my late father and I were guests of The Detroit Chamber of Commerce on a cruise down the Great Lakes on the luxury liner Noronic. This was made up of the most prominent and wealthy Detroit merchants and to honor my father they took him on the cruise and we occupied the guest suite on this boat which had been previously occupied in former years by Mr. Thomas A. Edison and Mr. Henry Ford. I only tell you this to show you the honor and respect these men had for us.

When we reached the destination port naturally such a distinguished group was met by the local mayor of that city who had an entertainment ready for these Detroiters. After the address of welcome father and I approached this Canadian mayor and said "we had a friend by the name of John Doe in the suburbs of his city who was starting a bird Sanctuary." The mayor looked at us and in an abrupt tone of voice said, "We haven't seen him since last January when there was four feet of snow on the ground and the thermometer was 20 below zero, he walked into town bare footed with his blue jeans rolled to his knees and we sent him home by the Police."

Hearing this my father felt very forgiving for having been annoyed at his asking for more geese and not killing the great horned owl. However this man spent many years writing in the letter boxes of newspapers condemning Jack Miner for killing the great horned owl and certain species of hawks. We never replied to the letters but felt he would wear himself out and the next we heard or saw his name in the paper was approximately in August, 1965 or perhaps before or since when the Wild Life Department of a Government along with five or six wild life biologists had had some medal or citation conferred upon them for their efforts in Conservation. When I saw this I have often wondered if these five or six biologist recipients had walked into their town barefooted with their pant legs rolled up through four feet of snow and the thermometer at 20 degrees below zero. Yes I have even wondered if the Government officials that conferred the honor on them had had the same bare footed experience.

Jumping ahead the last two years (1965-1967) we have had several dozen visitors from his home town come to the Jack Miner Sanctuary and I have asked them about our friend John Doe and each one has given us the following reply: "He is still living but as crazy as ever;" "Oh yes we know him, he is loose in the upper story;" "A bed bug never was as crazy as he;" "No different than he has always been."

Dear readers, I do not cite the above incidents with pride but such a man can write for the press and write letters annoying one but in my heart I say "forgive him for he knows not what he does" but it is very annoying for a man that should be in an institution running loose writing sarcastic articles for the press.

However when I see an article by another person condemning us for killing a great horned owl and at the

same time prosecuting a man for shooting a pheasant out of season when an owl will take one every night I say to myself perhaps he or she too has walked through snow four feet deep at 20 below zero with his pant legs rolled up.

Speaking further about the great horned owl it is true this is a sanctuary but their habits are the same outside of the sanctuary before they come here. In other words they won't come ten miles here to get game and food but clean it up on the countryside enroute here. Speaking along this line I am thinking of a well known Game Commissioner in the U.S. who was bombarded to protect all hawks and owls. He is the most successful Game Commissioner in the U.S. He believed as my father did that it was foolish to prosecute a man for shooting a pheasant out of season and protect a great horned owl that would take one every night.

A great horned owl at the front door of Jack Miner's home. Jack Miner's pet golden pheasants roosted on Jack Miner's front veranda and one night a great horned owl came to the place and killed and ate the pheasant. The next night Jack Miner set a jump trap on the dead pheasant and caught this mammoth great horned owl. The wild life biologists tell us they only kill the weak and delicate species". This is not true because the geese and pheasants on the Jack Miner Sanctuary are healthy birds.

This Game Commissioner wrote me June 29, 1956 and told of a delegation calling upon him to stop all shooting of hawks and owls. The Commissioner said, I quote: "There were some very fine people present but there were some that looked as though they should be in a Sanatorium."

Pole Traps

A pole trap is a small pole or post with a jump trap on the top where a great horned owl is apt to alight before it springs down to earth to attack an innocent pheasant, peafowl, duck or goose. The humane society says this is not humane, — why, bless your life, this trap only catches the owl by its toe whereas the great horned owl pulls its prey — pheasants, partridge, ducks, geese, etc. to pieces alive — what more torturing thing can you imagine than to hear the screaming of a pheasant at night as one of these owls pulls it to pieces alive which from my bedroom window at midnight I think sounds like the pheasant is crying help. These pole traps are only used during the winter months when the song and insectivorous birds are in the south therefore we never catch any bird other than a great horned owl and other birds of prey that perch upon this elevated position. As far as catching mice, the ground in Canada is covered with snow and the mice are covered with two feet of snow as they stay on the ground eating grasses and green vegetation.

Great Horned Owl more commonly known as a cat owl. It came one night to Jack Miner's back yard and killed a ten pound Canada Geese. Jack Miner set a No. 2 jump trap on the dead body of the goose and caught this great horned owl the next night.

Cardinals

My father loved seeing the cardinals, chickadees among his trees in the winter feeding on rolled oat meal and sunflower seed he had provided during the winter months. These birds brought good cheer and brightened things up with their color and song. In the spring when the coopers and sharp shinned hawks returned from the south and attacked the cardinals and chickadees his philosophy was to shoot these species of hawk. He would say, "I didn't feed these cardinals all winter to feed a bunch of bird murderers. We kill murderers of human family, why not shoot the murderers of the valuable weed and insect eating bird family?"

Cooper's Hawk — Sharp Shinned Hawks
Great Horned Owl

From 1910 to 1930 he had expressed himself from the lecture platform by saying that these hawks and great horned owls had multiplied all out of proportion to other valuable bird life such as warblers, chickadees and other song and insectivorous and weed seed eating birds. He pointed out that the biologists of the last century (19th) claimed that ninety per cent of the bird life was passenger pigeons and when they were exterminated it only left our weed seed eating and insectivorous birds for these hawks and owls to feed on. He took the position that if there were 1,000 ducks in a county and 500 crows that when man shot 500 ducks for food man should shoot one half the crows to keep same in balance. The same with quail, when man shoots quail then their natural enemies should be shot in the same proportion. The same with pheasants and other game, even applying it to deer and wolves, that when man shot deer for food the timber wolves should be reduced to at least the same proportion because a deer reproduces one and occasionally two fawns per year while a mother wolf reproduces as high as four or more pups annually. One does not have to have a university education with a Ph.D. degree to see how nature is unbalanced if man does not reduce the natural enemies of the game he shoots for food to at least the same proportion.

To be brief between 1920 and 1930 father had expressed himself so strongly along the lines stated above namely "man

had upset the balance of nature when he shot wild birds and animals for food when he did not shoot their natural enemies in the same proportion," that a certain group of bird watchers (you know the type I am referring to) kept the letter boxes of the daily newspapers full doubting father's statements of how the above species of hawks and owls were keeping our weed seed eating and insectivorous birds from increasing. These letter writers all said these hawks lived on mice when I from a boy had seen father open the crops and stomachs of various hawks that were filled with feathers of warblers and other small birds so I conceived the idea myself to send the hawks he shot to the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto to examine their stomachs. I contacted the officials of The Royal Ontario Museum and they were very co-operative and always have been. I conceived the idea of packing the specimens in common salt to preserve them until they reached the Museum two hundred and fifty miles away.

Father then went a mile away from our Sanctuary so this certain type of bird watchers, you know the type, couldn't say the Sanctuary attracted the birds and when these hawks were migrating, for research purposes he shot these hawks, brought them home and I packed them, prepaid the express and sent them to the Toronto laboratory of the Museum. On the next page is printed the contents and full report of the analysis.

One thing this did was all we had heard heretofore and read in the press was that hawks lived on mice. We would read where we needed hawks to control mice but since the contents of these hawks' stomachs has been reprinted and proven they live on bird life the biologists have had some other excuse.

Between 1920-1930 father made five trips in seven years to Western Canada and saw how mice had increased in the midst of the hawks and he found that approximately every seven years the western provinces would have a wet, wet, wet season and the mice were reduced to a minimum number. They were reduced by the wet rainy season and they increased in the midst of the hawks until the rainy season.

When we in 1931 released the facts about the contents of these hawk's stomachs we received a deluge of mail among which was a pamphlet published by the Brodie Club of Toronto made up of a dozen or so wild life biologists, not wild life game management personnel but professors of universities who were professors or amateur naturalists, most of its members being in some degree scientific men. We read their brochure and I filed it away with other hawk material.

Just at this time when our statement had started a strong controversy father had the honor to be the guest of honor and speaker at the annual banquet of the American Game Protective Society held in the ball room of the Waldorf Astoria hotel in New York city. He was the personal guest of Mr. M. Hartley Dodge, one of the Founders and Chairman of the Board of The Remington Arms Co.

While he was not speaking until the Saturday night at the annual banquet he went the night before so he would hear the speakers in the afternoon daily sessions. He came home and we as a family as usual gathered around him to hear the report of his New York trip.

He told of hearing a wild life biologist professor reading a paper pertaining to "the wild life of North America four hundred million years ago." My father said to us, "I do not believe that this biology professor can conceive how long four hundred millions years is." He said, "it's only tw thousands years since Christ was on earth and that is long time." He said when the chairman asked him for h comments on the professor's address all father said was "h was not interested in what the wild life of North Ameri was like four hundred million years ago but he was interes ed in what the wild life of America was like today."

However he continued his report of his New York tr by telling us that after his lecture at the evening banqu Mr. M. Hartley Dodge who was his host, while in New Yor brought his banquet guest to meet him who was D Murray Nicholas Butler who was President of Columb University. Dr. Butler was complimentary in his words my father and invited him to spend Sunday afternoon wi him at his home at 60 Morningside Drive, 116th Street. the appointed time Mr. Dodge picked him up at his suite the Waldorf Astoria and accompanied him to Dr. Butle home because Mr. M. Hartley Dodge was a trustee Columbia University. Here at the Butler home were twent two professors from Columbia University who met eve Sunday afternoon to discuss world affairs, etc.

When my late father told me this I said to myself will send them father's statement and the contents of th hawk's stomachs and also The Brodie Club's pamphlet rebuttal" and I asked for an unbiased opinion of m father's article and the Brodie Club article of criticism. In few weeks' time I received the two pamphlets back and th pamphlet produced by the Brodie Club had a red lea pencil mark under the name of Jack Miner because th entire pamphlet was Jack Miner did this, Jack Miner d that, Jack Miner, Jack Miner, Jack Miner and a comple repetition of Jack Miner.

The only comment that Dr. Butler and his group men made was: "The subject of The Brodie pamphlet seem to be Jack Miner and not the hawks."

Nothing more was said in a public way about Jac Miner's research program re hawks and owls until May 1s 1952 issue of Canada's MacLean's Magazine when Jac Miner had been dead eight years. Mr. Fred Bodswort wrote a story and said "Miner is suspected of havin employed a bit of skulduggery" and insinuated that Jac Miner had killed song birds and poked them down th hawks' throat. This accusation had its repercussion for M Fred Bodsworth to promote such a lie. He waited eigh years after Jack Miner's death to make up or promote suc a lie and I had two most prominent lawyers in Canada one from Ottawa and one from Toronto, come to my hom and want to take legal action against Mr. Bodsworth fo promoting such a lie and make him prove such an accusa tion. When this was published I refuted such a lie b saying: If the hawk's stomach had been tampered with was done by biologists who did not believe what they wer finding. This soon quieted it down. Whether Mr. Bodswort made this lie up or not he printed it in his story and I stan ready today in any way at any place to refute such a thin as I personally packed all hawks and sent them and n one had even thought of such a thing and I will take m oath if these speciments were tampered with it was don after they had left here.

Such things as this give you readers an idea what w have had to put up with in having such lies made up b someone whether it be by Bodsworth or his advisors or b someone who walked into town barefooted with his pan legs rolled up and four feet of snow on the ground wit the thermometer hovering around 20 below zero.

EXAMINATION OF HAWKS AT ROYAL MUSEUM OF ZOOLOGY, BLOOR ST. AND AVE. ROAD, TORONTO 5, ONTARIO

1929—Species—Contents

December 27—Marsh Hawk—Remains of English Sparrow.
January 16—Marsh Hawk—Starling and English Sparrow.
May 15—Marsh Hawk—English Sparrow and Meadow Mouse.
September 18—Sharp Shinned Hawk—Cowbird (female).
September 18—Sharp Shinned Hawk—Cowbird, (female).
November 12, 1928—Sharp Shinned Hawk—Remains of English Sparrow.
September 18—Sharp Shinned Hawk—English Sparrow.
December 6—Sharp Shinned Hawk—English Sparrow.
September 18—Sharp Shinned Hawk—English Sparrow.
September 18—Sharp Shinned Hawk—Empty.
September —Cooper's Hawk—Young Plymouth Rock Chicken.
November —Cooper's Hawk—Remains of Domestic Pigeon.
March 5—Cooper's Hawk—Starling.
November 8—Cooper's Hawk—English Sparrow.
March 5—Cooper's Hawk—English Sparrow.
December 6—Cooper's Hawk—Empty.
December 2—Red Tailed Hawk—Trace of vegetable matter.
February 18—1930—Red Tailed Hawk—Remains of duck and beach mouse.
January 20—1930—Red Tailed Hawk—One male Shrew and one bronzed Grackle.
October 4—Barn Owl—Two Jumping Mice.
November 23—Long Eared Owl—Two Beech Mice and one Deer Mouse.
December 6—Snow White Owl—One Song Sparrow and insect debris.
November 12—Screech Owl—At least two grasshoppers.
November 11—Screech Owl—Two Ground Beetles.
December 10 — Screech Owl—Remains of one Chicadee.
March 17—Great Horned Owl—Empty.

1930—Species—Contents

August 20—Marsh Hawk—Remains of a young Mourning Dove.
September 5—Sharp Shinned—Part of remains of House Wren.
September 5—Sharp Shinned—Part of remains of a Song Sparrow.
September 8—Sharp Shinned—Nearly entire remains of an English Sparrow. Fragments from a Sparrow taken at an earlier feeding. Few oat grains from Sparrow crop.
September 8—Sharp Shinned—Remains of English Sparrow and also part of feet of another English Sparrow taken at earlier feeding. Several oat grains from Sparrow crop and a few dry grass blades.
September 8—Sharp Shinned—Feathers and a few bones of a young Robin.
September 8—Sharp Shinned—Remains of English Sparrow, fresh, and part of feet of another from an earlier feeding. Four oat grains from Sparrow crop.
September 8—Sharp Shinned—Part of the remains of an English Sparrow. Oats from the crop of a Sparrow.
September 3—Sharp Shinned—Stomach empty.
September 8—Sharp Shinned—Stomach empty.
The following were taken latter part of September and October:
Marsh Hawk—Contained part of remains of Olive Backed Thrush.
Marsh Hawk—Empty.
Marsh Hawk—Feathers and bones of House Sparrow and Thrush.
Marsh Hawk—Feathers and bones of Mourning Dove and feet of a White Breasted Nut Hatch.
Marsh Hawk—Feathers and bone of House Sparrow and of small native Sparrow.
Marsh Hawk—Part of remains of a young (pinfeathers) Plymouth Rock Chicken.
Cooper's Hawk—Remains of at least one Mourning Dove.
Cooper's Hawk—Trace of bird feathers.
Cooper's Hawk—Remains of House Sparrow.
Cooper's Hawk—Empty.
Cooper's Hawk—Feathers of Grackle.
Cooper's Hawk—Remains of domestic fowl. Two leaves, probably taken accidently.
Cooper's Hawk—Empty.
Sharp Shinned—Empty.
Sharp Shinned—A few unidentified feathers of birds.
Sharp Shinned—Feathers of a Thrush.
Sharp Shinned—Trace of feathers only.
Sharp Shinned—Feathers of a Maryland Yellow throat.
Sharp Shinned—Feathers and remains of House Sparrow.
Sharp Shinned—Feathers of Thrush.
Sharp Shinned—Feathers and remains of House Sparrow and a Warbler.
Sharp Shinned—Feathers of a Black Bird.
Sharp Shinned—Empty.
Sharp Shinned—Remains of a Chickadee.
Sharp Shinned—Remains of a Chickadee.
Sharp Shinned—Parts of remains of a Chickadee.
Sharp Shinned—Feathers of a Nut Hatch; parts of a small bird foot.
Sharp Shinned—Few remains of a native Sparrow.
Sharp Shinned—Empty.
Sharp Shinned—Few feathers of a small bird, perhaps a Warbler.
Sharp Shinned—Empty.
Sharp Shinned—Empty.
Sharp Shinned—Empty.
Sharp Shinned—Part of remains of a White Breasted Nut Hatch.
Sharp Shinned—Empty.
Sharp Shinned—Empty.
Sharp Shinned—Feathers of a House Sparrow.
Sharp Shinned—Feathers of a Thrush.
Short Eared Owl—Remains of at least two Sapsuckers, one almost entire.
Great Horned Owl—Part of remains of a young Ring-Necked Pheasant.
Great Horned Owl—Part of remains of a young Ring-Necked Pheasant.
Great Horned Owl—Part of remains of a young Ring-Necked Pheasant.
Broadwinged Hawk—Empty.
Broadwinged Hawk—A few insect remains.
Broadwinged Hawk—Remains of forty-four Crickets.
Pigeon Hawk—Remains of a Warbler.
Sparrow Hawk—Remains of a Dragon Fly; partial remains of nine Crickets.
Cooper's Hawk—Some rodent hair apparently Rat.
Red Tailed Hawk—A young Blowing Adder.
Sparrow Hawk—Insects, mostly Grasshoppers, Crickets and Dragon Flies.
Red Tailed Hawk—Entire remains of a Bronzed Grackle, gizzard of another bird (from former feeding) which was of the same size as Grackle, two gravels and some course grain chaff.
Sparrow Hawk—Remains of fourteen Crickets.
Sparrow Hawk—Remains of eighteen Crickets, one Moth, one Grasshopper, several feathers of a small bird, apparently an English Sparrow.
Long Eared Owl—Traces of hair.
Screech Owl—Six feathers of a small bird.

1931—Species—Contents

September 8—Sharp Shinned Hawk—Bones, feathers and flesh of Mourning Doves.
September 11—Sharp Shinned Hawk—Feathers of an immature Starling.
September 11—Sharp Shinned Hawk—Stomach empty.
September 12—Sharp Shinned Hawk—Unidentified feathers of small bird.
September 16—Sharp Shinned Hawk—English Sparrow.
September 17—Sharp Shinned Hawk—Remains of a Thrush.
September 18—Sharp Shinned Hawk—Few Small feathers of an unidentfied bird.
September 18—Sharp Shinned Hawk—Feathers of a small bird, unidentified.
September 18—Sharp Shinned Hawk—Stomach empty.
September 18—Sharp Shinned Hawk—English Sparrow.
September 18—Sharp Shinned Hawk—Oven Bird.
September 18—Sharp Shinned Hawk—Part of a Mourning Dove, Starling and a Meadow Lark.
September 18—Sharp Shinned Hawk—Feathers of two birds (possibly English Sparrow).
September 18—Sharp Shinned Hawk—Red Bat.
September 18—Sharp Shinned Hawk—English Sparrow.
September 18—Sharp Shinned Hawk—Feathers of a Cowbird.
September 18—Sharp Shinned Hawk—One Song Sparrow.
September 18—Sharp Shinned Hawk—English Sparrow.
September 19—Sharp Shinned Hawk—Stomach empty.
September 19—Sharp Shinned Hawk—Remains of unidentified Sparrow and one oat.
September 19—Sharp Shinned Hawk—Remains of a young Gold Finch.
September 19—Sharp Shinned Hawk—Three very small unidentified black feathers.
September 19—Sharp Shinned Hawk—English Sparrow.
September 22—Sharp Shinned Hawk—Empty.
September 22—Sharp Shinned Hawk—Cowbird.
September 22—Sharp Shinned Hawk—One unidentified feather.
September 23—Sharp Shinned Hawk—English Sparrow.
September 23—Sharp Shinned Hawk—English Sparrow.
September 25—Sharp Shinned Hawk—One small unidentified feather.
September 30—Sharp Shinned Hawk—Remains of unidentified bird (Native Sparrow).
September 4—Cooper's Hawk—Swamp Sparrow.
September 4—Cooper's Hawk—Trace of feathers.
September 11—Cooper's Hawk—Hungarian Partridge feathers.
September 12—Cooper's Hawk—Mourning Dove.
September 16—Cooper's Hawk—English Sparrow.
September 19—Cooper's Hawk—Starling.
September 19—Cooper's Hawk—Feathers (unidentified).
October 1—Cooper's Hawk—Trace of feathers.
October 13—Cooper's Hawk—Empty.
October 20—Cooper's Hawk—Empty.
November 5—Cooper's Hawk—Parts of a Starling and Golden Crowned Kinglet.
November 11—Cooper's Hawk—Parts of a Bronze Grackle and an English Sparrow.
November 17—Cooper's Hawk—Parts of a Starling and English Sparrow.
November 23—Cooper's Hawk—Starling.
November 26—Cooper's Hawk—Starling (also one Nemetode Worm).
November 26—Cooper's Hawk—Starling.
December 9—Cooper's Hawk—Small fragments of vegetable materials including leaves and seeds (2 lamb's quarters), some unidentified gelatenous substance (possibly frog flesh).
December 9—Cooper's Hawk—Starling, English Sparrow, Bronze Grackle, a small quantity of gravel.
December 9—Cooper's Hawk—Starling.
December 30—Cooper's Hawk—Starling.
December 30—Cooper's Hawk—Starling.
December 30—Cooper's Hawk—One unidentified feather, very small.
December 30—Cooper's Hawk—Starling.
March 2—Cooper's Hawk—Parts of an English Sparrow and Starling (a few feathers).
March 2—Cooper's Hawk—Starling.
March 2—Cooper's Hawk—Starling.
April 5—Cooper's Hawk—Parts of a Pigeon and Starling.
April 19—Cooper's Hawk—Starling.
July 20—Marsh Hawk—Parts of a Meadow Lark, Starling and Native Sparrow.
July 20—Marsh Hawk—Meadow Lark.
July 20—Marsh Hawk—Parts of a young Meadow Lark and a Vesper Sparrow.
September 8—Marsh Hawk—Parts of an English Sparrow and feathers of a Meadow Lark.
September 17—Marsh Hawk—Small fragments of a leaf stem.
September 19—Marsh Hawk—Small mass of fragments of feathers (unidentified).
July 20—Marsh Hawk—Unidentified bird remains (possibly foreign or domesticated).
August 20—Marsh Hawk—Empty.
September 16—Marsh Hawk—Meadow Lark.
September 10—Marsh Hawk—Black Bird feathers (feathers of some small unidentified bird).
February 11—1932—Marsh Hawk—Starling.
September 25—1931—Broad Winged Hawk—22 crickets and 3 grasshoppers.
November 26—1931—Long Eared Owl—Starling,
March 28—1932—Great Horned Owl—Empty.
March 28—1932—Great Horned Owl—Empty.
March 28—1932—Great Horned Owl—Empty.
September 31—1931—Sparrow Hawk—1 necrophorus Beetle, remains of 6 or 7 field crickets. Gryllus, 1 moth, 2 water bugs, Belostomia, many locust or cricket eggs, large number of small fragments of chitin.
September 22—1931—Sparrow Hawk—Remains of 11 crickets, Gryllus Pennsylvanious.
September 30—1931—Sparrow Hawk—9 crickets, Gryllus Pennsylvanious.
November 2—1931—Red Shoulder Hawk—Insect fragment.
November 11—1931—Red Tailed Hawk—Empty.
September 4—1931—Screech Owl—White footed mouse, large beetle (leaf chafer), 5 large crickets, Gryllus.
September 4—Screech Owl—Large Cricket.
September 8—Screech Owl—Fragments of at least four crickets, Gryllus and eggs from same.
September 28—Screech Owl—Remains of one spider, fragments of large insect, probably cricket, remains of house mouse and also mullipede.
November—1931—Screech Owl—Small mass of hair (mouse or shrew).
November 2—Screech Owl—Small amount of animal matter unidentified but apparently insects fragments.
November 2—Screech Owl—English Sparrow.
November 2—Screech Owl—English Sparrow.
November 2—Screech Owl—Few feathers of unidentified bird.
November 9—Screech Owl—Feathers of small bird, appears like English Sparrow, part of mouse.
November 9—Screech Owl—Starling, remains of mullipede.
November 11—Screech Owl—One Micratus (Meadow Mouse).
November 23—Screech Owl—Empty.
December 9—Screech Owl—Empty.
December 30—Screech Owl—English Sparrow.
December 30—Screech Owl—Empty (trace of vegetable matter).
December 30—Screech Owl—Remains of one small unidentified bird (probably a winter wren, feathers only).

What is so ridiculous about the entire accusation is if anyone doubts the findings in the Jack Miner specimens printed here, our reply is Jack Miner is dead, he never changed the habits of the hawks so anyone or group of men can go out now and do as Jack Miner did and shoot the same number and have their stomachs analyzed. Again I repeat myself and say sincerely the food habits of hawks have not changed and I say to anyone who doubts or questions the findings in the Jack Miner specimens they are free to go out at the same time of year, kill the number and the same species of hawks and have their stomachs analyzed.

I am sure with Mr. Fred Bodsworth having been President of the Ontario Field Naturalists that the members did not agree with Mr. Bodsworth or anyone else for promoting or printing such a false accusation without proof or evidence.

Just as further proof of how the biologists and bird watchers, you know the type, who do annoying things to build themselves up, on October 11, 1958 on pages 30 and 31 in Macleans Magazine a Mr. Duncan McLeod wanting to promote Long Point, Ontario ran an article and used a panorama photo of Canada Geese across the top of two pages 30 and 31 which was taken at the Jack Miner Bird Sanctuary. No credit was made of the origin or place of photo; on the contrary a caption under the Jack Miner picture reads: "Migrating Canada Geese swoop down on a long Point marsh rich with wild rice and crowded with ducks."

Most certainly the editorial staff of MacLeans does not know this picture was taken at Jack Miner's because MacLeans and Jack Miner's friendship dated back to Col. MacLean, the founder, and Jack Miner and the editorial policy of MacLeans would not and does not stoop to using a large panorama photo taken at Jack Miner's and putting a caption of Long Point under it.

In our universities several biology professors are teaching that "killing predators will not increase game." One of the exponents of this philosophy is Dr. Durward L. Allen, Professor of Biology in Purdue University of Purdue. In one day I received from newspapers a dozen copies of the article he wrote asking me to make a reply. The following was my reply which was printed by leading newspapers in their weekly outdoor page:-

"MANLY F. MINER ANSWERS DURWARD L. ALLEN

"In the issue of November 22, 1954 of Sports Illustrated an article appeared by Durward L. Allen entitled "Killing Predators won't increase the Game." This was copied by several State owned Conservation magazines. Manly F. Miner, son of the late Jack Miner, makes the following reply:

"In the spring of 1954 something came to our Sanctuary, night after night for fourteen nights in succession, each time taking a mallard duck off her nest. Not only did the creature devour the duck, but also the setting of eggs beneath her, numbering from fourteen to eighteen. At the time we did not know what type of predator it could be that would have such a food hunger as this; and as it would not come to exactly the same spot a second time we had to set traps near other live ducks on their nests; thus we were unable to catch this predator until, as already stated, this destruction had gone on for fourteen successive nights. It turned out to be a mother raccoon weighing nearly twenty-five pounds. Had we not caught and destroyed this predator, not only she, but also every one of her offspring, would be creating the same havoc this spring. This being the case, I surely cannot agree with Mr. Allen when he contends that "Killing predators will not increase game." The fact is that this one coon destroyed not only fourteen mother ducks, or breeders; but also destroyed fully two hundred duck eggs. Had these eggs been left to hatch and mature, without danger from predators, from the egg state to full-grown birds, it would have meant an increase of perhaps one hundred and fifty ducks.

"Then look at the timber wolf situation in northern Ontario. I was with my late father when we saw thirty-eight Red deer in one day. Timber wolves came in and increased — a species of timber wolf that weighs nearly one hundred pounds. The next fall, during late October or early November when there was only one inch or so of snow, we tracked different packs of these wolves; and their tracks led us to as many as thirteen deer carcasses in one day, mostly does (females) and fawns. I am advised that in some areas today there is not a deer track to be seen, let alone a deer. Yet look at Pennsylvania and Michigan, where there are no timber wolves. In these two States, in the face of an army of hunters each fall, it has been found necessary to permit the females to be shot in order to reduce the herds to rasonable numbers.

"Let us consider the pheasant situation: Pelee Island, in Lake Erie, is only some eight or ten miles from my home, which has enabled me to observe the situation there at first hand and continuously. The numbers of pheasants have increased during the last twenty-five years from the start of two dozen birds. On the island named, only a few square miles in extent but where there are no predators, pheasants have become so numerous that during the last ten or more years, one thousand hunters have harvested approximately fifteen thousand (15,000) cock birds annually; and lately it has become necessary to allow hen birds to be shot in order to reduce the flocks, which in spite of the previous great annual slaughter continued to increase.

"Think of the great estates in both England and Scotland. On some of these the game preserve dates back three hundred, or more, years; and during that time gamekeepers have controlled the predators both night and day. The result is that pheasant and grouse are so numerous that sportsmen go from New York and other parts of America, each fall, to hunt. One autumn, a few years ago, five New York sportsmen shot four thousand grouse on one of the estates, or moors, in Scotland, in a single week. With the excellent habitat that exists in countless less populated areas of the vast stretches of North America, why should our sportsmen have to journey to the small island of Great Britain to behold a plentitude of game, or to the ten square miles of Pelee Island? They would not need to if the same amount of money were expended in predator control as in paid several of our University professors and game management biologists who are going through the country telling us "we will have just as much game in the fall no matter how much is killed by the predators in the winter, spring and summer months."

"It seems so inconsistent to have laws allowing you and me one or two days in the fall in which to shoot pheasants and other game, yet protecting predators that commit the same act of killing on every one of the three hundred and sixty-five days of the year! And why lean back on the old argument that "Nature will balance itself" when the fact of the matter is that man, having upset Nature's balance, ought to be held responsible for restoring that balance. The predator situation has become still more grievous lately because of the low prices paid for raw furs; during the last ten or more years the packs of timber wolves and hordes of skunks, weasels and other predators have increased out of all proportion to the herds of game. And

that is saying nothing of the increase in the flocks of crows and magpies which for three months of each year live practically entirely on the eggs of other birds.

"Most certainly we need habitat, food and shelter for our wild life; but what good are all these if ninety-four nests out of one hundred and twenty-three (94 out of 123 nests) are going to be destroyed in egg stage by egg-eating predators? This is the true situation, as has been authentically revealed by the research biologists of North Dakota, in 1953.

"Most certainly, upon contemplating the foregoing facts — and many others equally pertinent which I can, or could, relate — I am impelled to repeat that I do not agree with Mr. Durward L. Allen when he writes, "Killing Predators Won't Increase the Game."

Editor does not know an Eagle from a Marsh Hawk

In 1961 a State Conservation Magazine carried a photo of an eagle on its cover and on the inside was a reduced picture with a caption of it being a Marsh Hawk. The caption reads, "The Marsh Hawk portrayed on our cover serves as a reminder to anyone." This only illustrates what my late father meant when he said "some of the wild life biologists don't know a chipmunk from a chickadee."

Niagara Falls and Swans

In the early part of the century 1900 to 1925 there came to the attention of all bird lovers the fact that hundreds of swans met their death each late March by going over Niagara Falls in the ice jams. My father made eight or ten visits during the last two weeks of March for many years to study the situation and here is what happened: He found that in the middle of March the weather became warm in Carrituck Sound and around Lake Mattamuskeet, North Carolina the temperature would go to 75 to 80 degrees, naturally the swans would migrate north and as it was still zero weather in the Arctic Circle the only open water on the Great Lakes was in the Niagara River above the falls. Starting about three miles above the falls the current of the water gradually becomes swifter as it reaches the falls. The water is warmer than ice and as the ice floes would come to this water it would form a fog in the air and the swans would alight in this open water and as they drifted down the river toward the falls the fog would increase so birds or humans could not see the falls and the consequence was the swans drifted down over the falls and many were killed, others were wounded and were permanent cripples such as having wings and legs broken and the ones that survived would swim on down the river to Lake Ontario.

Six of twelve native whistling swans captured at the foot of Niagara Falls in 1923 and taken to the Jack Miner Bird Sanctuary where they received attention and their wounds were doctored. Each bird had a broken leg or broken wing and were maimed so they could not fly. Some of the twelve swans received are still alive and being cared for at The Jack Miner Sanctuary where tens of thousands of visitors see them annually.

While making these surveys of the situation father saw several Canadian farms that were along the river front, old farms because many still had the old log houses still standing by the side of the drive way. The most notable thing he saw was several had four or five Canada Geese with their barnyard fowl so naturally he enquired how they secured these Canada Geese and each farmer, several of them old men and women, said, "Mr. Miner, before you attracted the Canada Geese to Kingsville which is the other end of Lake Erie the wild geese, Canadian honkers used to go over the falls the same as the swans do, and we would get these wounded Canada Geese when they went over the falls and we have kept them as pets in our barnyard. We never even see a wild Canada Goose any more, they must all be at your place."

Father came home and while that was in the year 1923 he said, "If I could get some whistling swans as decoys perhaps the swans would come to the other end of the lake the same as the geese" so in the spring of 1924 he had arranged with the Wild Life authorities in Ottawa who co-operated with him to go to Niagara Falls and when any swans went over Niagara Falls and were injured with broken legs or wings to capture them and take them to his home and Sanctuary at Kingsville which is the west end of the lake. To make a long story short he secured the services of William Hill, Sr., known as the River Man who would row a boat out at the foot of the falls and in two or three days he had secured 12 of our Native Whistling Swans all of which had had their legs or wings broken and father brought them to his Sanctuary and doctored their wounds.

To our surpise and father's joy the spring of 1925 the very next spring fully a thousand swans came to the Sanctuary and circled and circled but would not alight because we had no large body of water and we were inland two miles from Lake Erie and these swans went two miles to the lake in front of the town of Kingsville and alighted and every spring since 1925 the swans come and as high as five thousand have come in one year; they always come and circle over our swans in the little ponds on the Sanctuary but make their home in the open waters of Lake Erie, Detroit River, Lake St. Clair, River, which are all near the Sanctuary.

Father came here from Ohio in 1878 and was a hunter, became a bird lover and from 1878 until 1925 he had never seen a wild Whistling Swan until he brought a dozen here in 1924 and the very next spring instead of swans going to Niagara Falls one thousand came here and the flock has increased every year but very few comparatively speaking are seen at Niagara Falls.

In 1925 there were a few comparatively speaking went to Niagara Falls and officials in Ottawa telephoned father and so he suggested to the interested parties in Toronto, Ottawa and Niagara Falls that they secure a ten gauge shot gun and some black powder blank cartridges which have no shot in the shells but the black powder would make a cannon like noise and he then suggested, and this was done in writing because I wrote the letters, that they go and stand on the river bank above the Falls and when the swans alighted to discharge the shells and frighten the swans so they wouldn't go over the falls and thus prevent them from being hurt, crippled and maimed for life.

In a few days a telephone call came from a wild life Biology Professor in Toronto and said father's plan would

not work and as the next day was a Saturday father made an appointment to meet him at the falls and when father arrived to meet him at the falls what do you think he found? — this wild life Biology Professor, a Mounted Police, a Provincial Game Warden and a dozen or more students the wild life Biology Professor had brought with him and they were all at the foot of the falls shooting these blank cartridges off at swans that had gone over the falls, instead of going above the falls and standing on the bank of the river and when the swans alighted to frighten them. The purpose of father's plan was to frighten them before they went over the falls but this professor and his group were trying to frighten them after they had gone over the falls.

I said to my father, "This Professor has his Ph.D." Father said, "What does that mean?" and I said, "Doctor of Philosophy." Father said, "I thought it meant Phenomenally Dumb." So every time I have a Doctor of Philosophy honor us with a visit I think of my father's interpretation of Ph.D.

I said to my father, "This Professor does not agree with you re controlling predators." Father said, "I wouldn't expect he would when he didn't know enough to frighten the swans above the falls before they went over instead of allowing them to go over and then stand with others at the foot of the falls and try to frighten them after they had gone over.

Blue Geese and Snow Geese

Speaking of wild life Professors with their Ph.D. I am reminded of a professor from a University in Michigan who came here with his class and father was showing them his flock of Blue and Snow Geese.

The late Mrs. Jack Miner feeds a great snow goose on its nest on the Jack Miner Sanctuary. This snow goose paired off with a Blue Goose gander and raised five young.

Father said the Blues and Snow Geese cross or intermarry. In other words a Blue Goose will cross with a Snow Goose or vice versa. The wild life Professor had a text book which he took out and read a read a sentence where the author said "they do not cross." Father said, "You will have to have the author change that sentence or paragraph because that Snow Goose crossed with this Blue Goose and this is its young" which was mottled. This conversation happened before father died which was twenty-four years ago and we still have the Blue and the Snow Goose and the mottled young one (1968).

Wilhelmina Miner Steffes, granddaughter of the late Jack Miner holds a young goose which is a cross between the greater snow goose and the Blue goose gander. These young geese hatched approximately twenty five years ago now mature birds and are still on The Jack Miner Sanctuary.

National Parks

Here in Canada some twenty-five or more years ago the wild life biologists had a law passed that no wild life should be killed in the parks. It has been our experience as stated above that wild life management may be different in some localities and that a text book should not be followed because it may not be applicable in some places or some areas under some circumstances.

Let me illustrate my point by this example: Point Pelee National Park was made a national park chiefly on account of it being the most southern point of land in Canada and the song and insectivorous birds more or less funnel their way down through the area where bird watchers, nature lovers and interested parties could go and see the migration.

For years there were hundreds of ring necked pheasants which were very attractive especially to the tourists motoring through. I have seen photos of fourteen ring necks in sight at once taken with a camera from the car. In 1946-1947-1948 this park only four or five square miles was invaded by coyotes which not only stayed there but had a den.

These coyotes did not catch and kill the pheasants but every pheasant was driven out of the park so much so that the Park Superintendent told me that he had not seen a pheasant track in the snow in the park property for a year. Had this park been the size of say Banff or Yellowstone with an acreage of, say one hundred more or less square miles, these half dozen coyotes would perhaps not have become a nuisance but for a half dozen coyotes to take over a four or five square mile area the public and especially the 1,000 sportsmen in the County did not agree with this policy so they had their Members of Parliament (Congress) approach the proper authority in Ottawa and all the M.P.'s reported to me was: "He's nuts."

The sportsmen then came up with a proposition that they would use this small park of four or five square miles

to raise pheasants for the public to see because at that time there was nothing to see only for the bird watchers to get out of their cars and walk through the jungle areas and see the song and insectivorous birds.

The idea was to liberate and feed the pheasants and when they became too thick they would reduce the flock during the winter months by catching these pheasants in large pens or traps and transplanting them in other areas of the County several miles away where shooting was allowed. The proposition gained public support with the result that a public meeting was held with the Government sending their Wild Life Biologist to speak and explain the "scientific research position of the Government."

At the appointment time a large representation of the Sportsmen gathered to meet this biologist in the park and to be brief Mr. Arthur Allen, the President of the Essex County Association, said they would like to use the park as a natural breeding ground for the pheasants but the coyotes, skunks and raccoon would have to be taken out because it would be foolish to liberate and try and raise pheasants in the midst of coyotes, skunks and raccoon and moreover the public never sees coyotes, skunks, raccoon or great horned owls.

The Wild Life Biologist said "nature will balance itself." This caused Mr. Allen to rise to his feet and say, "If we liberate 200 pheasants this spring in the park and the coyotes chase them out and the raccoon, skunks, foxes and great horned owls kill 50 or 100 during the summer will you have as many in the fall?" This biologist rose to his feet and said, "yes you will have just as many. Nature will balance itself." Mr. Allen rose to his feet and said, "Gentlemen, we have a place for unbalanced men, let's go home."

My late father never did any hunting from 1916 until his death in 1944. I am not a hunter but we both believe in control and sane management of our wild life. Here in Ontario we have a situation which illustrates our point. We have a Provincial Park known as Algonquin Park where no hunting is allowed and the timber wolves have increased to such numbers they have reduced the deer to such an extent that they the wolves have to leave the Park for food and are coming to the agriculture area and are a menace to the farmers raising sheep, cattle and pigs. The deer only reproduce one or two fawns each year; the timber wolves reproduce five or six pups and over a period of years the wolves are all out of balance in comparison to the number of deer. The Ontario Government recently produced a booklet (1968) which says there are between 10,000 and 12,000 timber wolves in the Province. These are a type of wolf that weighs between 75 and 125 lbs. more or less. The wolves' foods are chiefly deer and beaver. If a settler or trapper shoots a deer for food for his family in the winter we have laws to fine or even imprison him for this violation and at the same time employ Wild Life Biologists to go through the country and tell us we need wolves to "balance nature." You can imagine the number of deer 10,00 or 12,000 wolves will eat per year.

If I had it within my power I would reduce this flock of 12,000 wolves to 500 and let the deer increase for humanity especially for the Indians who are on relief. If the deer become too thick let humanity reduce the herd and control the herd the same as in Pennsylvania and Michigan, Virginia and Kentucky.

As far as needing 12,000 timber wolves to balance the deer herd we don't need such timber wolves to balance the herd any more than Michigan does that harvests 150,000 deer per year or Pennsylvania that harvests 175,000 deer per year in an area no larger than four or five counties in Ontario and not as large as some of our districts.

I had three Wild Life Biologist students visit me and they all said, "You can't have deer without wolves." Some university professor had pumped them so full of the Bird and Bee story that they honestly thought the wolf was part of the sex life, the male or female part of a deer. I then referred them to Pennsylvania that harvested 171,622 deer in 1963 and Michigan that harvested 125,000 in 1964 and no wolves in either State. As far as weather conditions are concerned Ontario fifty years ago in some areas had deer as thick as Pennsylvania and Michigan and deer population increased until the wolves came in. The Ontario Government publishes photos of deer hunting parties who had no trouble getting two deer each between the years 1900 and 1920. In 1904 I saw thirty-seven deer in one day; the wolves came in and gradually increased and in a few years we tracked packs of wolves and found eleven deer in one day, mostly does and fawns, that had been killed by wolves.

Speaking of Algonquin Park the Wild Life Biologists recently caught wolves and put a metal collar around their neck and let them go and then they traced them by radio to see what time the wolves did their killing. I said to two Wild Life Biologists, "What are they going to do about it after they find out what time they do their killing?"

These same Wild Life Biologists report that "the length of embryonic development of a wolf is 63 days." I now ask one and all now that they have found this out what are they going to do about it? Or let's put it this way — why would we want to do anything about it so why all the expense to find this out?

I have never used the word "extermination" but I definitely am opposed to trying to raise deer and spending thousands of dollars on a program to feed deer to provide food for 10,000 or 12,000 wolves. I say, reduce the wolf population from 10,000 or 12,000 to 500 or if necessary fence off an area in Algonquin Park as a Wolf Sanctuary the same as the Canadian Government did in making a Buffalo park because you could not have wheat fields and a million buffalo running all over same. I say it is ridiculous to prosecute a trapper or settler for shooting a deer out of season for food for his family and at the same time pay wild life biologists to go up and down the Provinces and tell us we need wolves to balance nature.

Sexing Geese

Approximately ten or twelve or more years ago we had a Mr. Harold Hanson come in here from Illinois who criticized our bird banding and wanted us to sex the geese. When I questioned the man at that time I am quite sure he had not caught or seen a goose caught therefore he did not realize that when we made a catch of as high as eight hundred and eighty Canada Geese at once it took eight or ten men the biggest part of a day to band these geese and check the numbers on the bands.

To prove to you I am not stubborn I questioned Mr. Hanson as to why he wanted to sex the birds which no doubt would take another day or so time and what would we do with the geese in the meantime? At that time he gave the big reason "he would like to sex the geese to learn

whether the male or female migrated first." I concluded the conversation by saying: "What are you going to do about it if you do find the male migrates first or vice versa?"

Let's jump ahead to late summer of 1963 when he paid us a friendly call during the absence of the geese and as he was leaving we invited him to come back in the fall to see the migration of the geese. He said "he would if he could learn something."

Now let's jump ahead to 1964 when he sends us a booklet devoted to "The Sexual Maturity in Canada Geese" on page 11 it shows a picture of the length of the penis of an immature Canada Goose and how the penis grew with the assistance of light and gonadroptic hormone." Page 12 shows six pictures of the length of the penis of an immature Canada Goose.

I have no quarrel with Mr. Hanson whom I now hear referred to as Dr. Harold Hanson but I ask one and all in all sincerity — what in the name of God are we going to do about it if the penis of a goose is one inch long the first year and two inches long the second year? Who is going to start feeding the goose population of America "gonadroptic hormone" to make their penis grow "two inches long the second year?" and I repeat myself and say what is he as an individual or any Government department going to do if they find out that the male migrates south or north first or vice versa the same as I said above about the Wild Life Biologists of Ontario Govt. finding out that "the length of embryonic development of a wolf is 63 days." I say sincerely what in the name of God are we or anyone else going to do about it and again I ask what is the Ontario Government keeping between 10,000 and 12,000 wolves for?

Research

Most certainly Jack Miner and now Jack Miner's successors all believe in Research because the minute he banded his first duck in 1909 to study its migration route and since then the 50,000 ducks we have banded and the 65,000 Canada Geese we have banded we feel is practical research because same can be and has been used as information where the excessive kills have taken place and especially between 1920 and 1930 dozens of wild life refuges were started in the U.S. especially in North Carolina based solely on the number of kills which took place in certain areas. You must remember up until around 1950 there were very few Canada Geese banded on the continent other than at the Jack Miner Sanctuary and all these records dating back to 1909 with the ducks and 1915 with the Geese were given to both Federal Governments in U.S. and Canada and now for twenty-five years all records have been sent every Provincial Government in Canada and every State Government in the U.S.A. as well as to five hundred university biology classes.

Jack Miner and his two sons Manly his eldest son and Jasper his youngest son band Canada Geese at the Jack Miner Sanctuary. He banded his first duck in August 1909 and between 1909 and 1915 he banded 50,000 ducks. He banded his first goose in 1915 and between 1915 and 1967 inclusive there has been nearly 65,000 Canada Geese banded at the Jack Miner and 35,000 recaught wearing a Jack Miner band.

Ducks and Hen Lice

A few years ago a University professor from a near by university in Michigan visited our Sanctuary with a dozen students and they noticed a dozen or fifteen ducklings perhaps a week old which looked very sickly and told us we should do away with them because they had . . . . a long Latin name. What had actually happened was a Great Horned Owl had killed a mother duck that was setting on sixteen eggs but it being in the summer the eggs had stayed warm and we placed them under a Plymouth rock hen. We had neglected to treat the old hen with insect powder and the result was the ducklings became infected with hen lice which usually attack the heads, eyes and nostrils of ducklings or little chickens a few days old. We caught these ducklings and greased their heads with common lard and also caught the old Plymouth rock hen and gave her a good treatment of insect powder and in only a few days this treatment cured our trouble.

I tell you this story not to belittle the professor but to show you he simply did not know because his text book does not carry such conditions that often exist in raising ducks, pheasants or quail with hens. What ever made him think of pronouncing they had a disease I will never know.

After he had expressed himself about the disease these duckling had I took him and his group to our observation tower. I must say we always welcome such leaders and groups of students and go all out to show them our activities because these students are men of tomorrow.

From our observation tower we can view our ponds and the net is where we catch the duck and geese. There are two ponds of a water a foot or eighteen inches deep and connecting the two ponds is an area covered with netting; under this net the water is only six or eight inches deep which father called "his cafeteria.' In this shallow water he would put shelled corn. This teacher or professor said, "Why do you put the shelled corn under the net in the water?" As there were approximately a hundred people heard him ask this question I turned to a boy of perhaps eight or ten years of age and said, "Why do you put a piece of cheese on a mouse trap?" He said, "To catch the mouse," so I then said, "That is why we put shelled corn under the net — to catch the geese." I am telling you this story not to further belittle the teacher but to show you that in the field of wild life management you cannot get a lesson out of a book by reading — you learn by doing.

Crows

Everybody that ever heard Jack Miner's name mentioned also thought of crows because he from a child saw game birds, song and insectivorous and weed seed eating

birds were reduced in number and crows increase. Even I can remember how fifty years ago it was a sign of spring to see a crow return north to Canada the same as we look for a robin now. Crows were so scarce that as a child I would only see two or three dozen a year even during the fall migration season.

Between 1915 and 1930 crows increased like compound complex interest so much so that between 1925 and 1930 my father made seven lecture tours through western Canada in five years and announced to the press through articles he would write that the crows were increasing so fast that they were even making their nests on the telegraph wires. These crows by personal findings and observations were living on duck eggs and through his research at different points he announced, and the same applies today, that seventy-five per cent (75%) of duck eggs laid never mature to full grown birds to migrate out of the country because of the increase of crows all out of proportion which had increased in alarming numbers. His philosophy was that when man increased in numbers with modern firearms and shot ducks, he should have shot the crows and other predators to the same proportion.

It is true the prairies faced several dry drought seasons; he did not discount that but he emphasized how the crow population had increased.

Just at this time he invented a crow trap patterned from his wild goose trap as crows had become so thick they had started to winter in the area around his home and in one winter he caught and killed enough crows that they covered a ten acre field with dead crows so thick you couldn't see the ground. He caught several hundred at a catch. The biologists, not game managers, started to yell and father's reply was he was not exterminating the crows but reducing them to the same proportion the crows had reduced the ducks and other valuable bird life population.

Jack Miner in his famous crow trap after making a catch of crows. While it was not uncommon to catch 500 crows at one catch but with the countless millions of crows, which have increased all out of proportion, Jack Miner said "If there was a crow trap on every fifty acres you could not exterminate them an ymore than man could or can exterminate the wolves in Northern Ontario in an area of 300 square miles. All man can or could do is reduce their numbers and keep them in control or keep them in balance."

The crow trap was given so much publicity that the U.S. Biological Survey sent Dr. Frederic C. Lincoln here who stayed several days, helped catch and kill crows and made a drawing of the trap with instructions how to bait and etc. and the U.S. Govt. advertised the plans free of charge which brought applications for same from all over the continent. It also brought protests from Biologists who had been taught nature would balance itself and a type of bird watcher, you know the type that don't believe in killing a bed bug, potato bug, etc. "because God made them all."

Why, bless your life, Jack Miner was not exterminating the crows, he was only reducing their number in the same proportion the crows had reduced the ducks and song and insectivorous birds. If there was a Jack Miner crow trap on every fifty acres man could not exterminate them.

Just about this time when crows were increasing in goodly numbers Ducks Unlimited came into existence and father pointed out that besides building dams they should carry on a crow control program which they did for a few years and then gradually stopped for reasons we could not understand until their chief biologist Dr. Bert Cartright was quoted in all western papers as saying, "It didn't hurt the duck population if the crows took the first nesting of the ducks because the ducks would lay again." Surely Doctor Cartright isn't trying to make us believe the crows only take the first laying of the ducks' eggs. To me a crow is a crow and it is immaterial to him whether it be the first, second or last laying of a duck. From Dr. Cartright's statement I can see he wasn't sympathetic to killing crows when his excuse was "if the crow took the first duck nest the duck would lay again."

When we were catching crows we carried on a research program and banded crows and found they were going to the Ottawa Valley, Ontario and the Gatineau Valley, Quebec where they were shot in the summer wearing our band. Crows are now so thick that in June, 1963 I saw crows nesting in the city of Ottawa and feeding around garbage cans in the residential section of the city especially along the canal between down town and the Government agriculture experimental station.

Here in Essex County where I live they come to winter in one roost, they gather in the evening to roost in second growth oak but there are so many of them they even roost on the ground — you cannot estimate the numbers — some biologists have estimated there are "forty million," I would say countless numbers. The flock is so large that there are eight flight lanes one mile wide leading to the roost which lasts for three hours flight each night coming from all directions.

If this forty million more or less crows in one area in a State or Province which live on birds' eggs if they can find them, how many duck eggs and song or insectivorous bird eggs would they eat and this is only one flock?

Bronze Grackle

The Bronze Grackle more commonly known as the crow black bird was so scarce when I was a boy that in 1910 my father came to the house to get me. One reason it came here was because we were the only place where an evergreen tree was located and that black bird went from limb to limb looking for a song or insectivorous bird's nest. It is commonly called a crow black bird because in color it is like a crow — habits like a crow, lives on song and insectivorous birds' eggs — raises its young on other birds' eggs and has increased by the millions. Most certainly both the crow and the black bird will eat worms but any one song or insectivorous bird egg they eat if left to hatch and mature would eat equally as many worms and they the blackbirds destroy all the bird eggs they can get their beak in. Jack Miner would rather have millions of song and insectivorous birds than he would the tens of millions of bronze grackle which we have today and have become so thick they are a menace to the farmers raising corn by eating the corn when it is in the milk stage. Every time I see a flock of countless thousands of black birds I

say I wish they were all warblers that eat worms. If our warblers, song and insectivorous birds had increased like their enemies the black birds, blue jays and coopers and sharp shinned hawks we would not have to use so much and so many kinds of pesticides to control the worms and insects.

Photo shows European Starlings invading the Jack Miner Bird Sanctuary. Jack Miner and his son Manly blame the decrease of the red headed wood pecker on the starling because every nest in trees once occupied by the red headed wood pecker for thirty years has been occupied by starlings. It is true starlings eat grubs, beetles, insects etc. but no more than a red headed wood pecker will eat and the starling has deprived the wood peckers by the thousands from nesting. Jack Miner said if it were the insecticides, or Pesticides or DDT that killed our song and insectiverous birds such poisons would have killed the starlings, blackbirds, magpies and other egg eating birds.

The bird watcher's argument is that if the crows, black birds and blue jays didn't eat the eggs of the valuable birds that these lovely birds, warblers, cedar wax-wing and other song and insectivorous birds would become so thick they would die of a disease; as for me I would rather see our valuable birds as thick as crows, black birds and blue jays and let these three species be reduced to the number of our valuable birds.

In 1948 I with three Members of Parliament walked perhaps two miles more or less in Point Pelee National Park and found ninety-six (96) warblers, blue birds, fly catchers and other song and insectivorous birds that had been eaten by mostly sharp shinned hawks. I said to these M.P.'s to me it doesn't make sense to have laws to prosecute a boy if he shoots one of these valuable birds and have laws to protect hawks that are living on them with the hawk population so thick I have seen ten thousand in sight at once, while over Hamilton Bay in Ontario it is reported by a bird watcher that there were twenty thousand hawks in sight at once and this flight goes on for four weeks.

What I am trying to say is that during the last fifty years the enemies of our valuable birds have increased all out of proportion so that you have millions of crows, black birds, hawks and blue jays in comparison to thousands of birds we want to live to eat worms, bugs, insects and weed seeds, the weed seeds being the chief diet of the mourning dove.

Writers of our forefathers' generation write that ninety per cent of the bird population in the nineteenth century 1800 - 1900 were passenger pigeons. If this be the case my father wrote and his reasoning was that when the passenger pigeons were all killed, as the old writers said they were, then man should have killed their enemies to the same proportion while on the contrary the enemies increased all out of proportion and are fast reducing many species of our valuable birds to extinction.

Bob White Quail

Essex County where the Jack Miner Sanctuary is located is only thirty miles from Detroit and the entire county during the period 1890 - 1910 attracted the attention of hunters from even Toronto and Michigan to hunt bob white quail. Jack Miner's book entitled "Jack Miner and The Birds" devoted an entire chapter to the early history of quail in this locality.

The population of the quail stayed fairly thick until 1948-49-50 when one year they were entirely wiped out. Jack Miner had in 1896 raised young bob white quail from winged clipped birds he had recovered when shooting during the previous fall. This constitutes the first time anyone raised bob white quail in captivity. He also had shipped live bob white quail to his cousin on Salt Spring Island in British Columbia. Jumping ahead several years he raised several young birds each year and when addressing the American Game Protective Association in the Waldorf Astoria Hotel he said" he did not have the time to do it but he was sure by taking the eggs away from the quail daily that the quail would continue to lay and eggs could be hatched by an incubator." In the audience was a man by the name of Coleman who heard father and inside of two years he sent father pictures of eggs and young he had raised in an incubator and brooder.

Jasper Wilson Miner blood tests his own Bob White Quail he raised on the Jack Miner Sanctuary. It was his constant study and attention that made him successful and he carried on his own research and learned by doing. This is something you cannot learn by reading, as Jack Miner said "you learn by doing."

Jumping ahead to 1930 and 1940 my brother here at the Jack Miner Sanctuary had created a quail farm, hatched

them in incubators and used Bantam hens as step-mothers and commercially sold them alive for restocking purposes throughout U.S. and Canada. He raised them by the thousands.

In one of the years 1948 - 1949 - or 1950 in early August the young began to die and he analyzed their stomachs and shut all his quail in wire pens and while he had 2,000 birds he lost 1,000 before learning what was causing their death. These birds died during the last two weeks of August and the first week of September.

When fall came we had the 1,000 sportsmen who belonged to Sportsmen's Clubs in Essex County watch for quail and we did not have one sportsman report seeing a quail in the County but I found that on a man's farm by the name of Plumb north of Leamington, a farm of sandy soil and on a ridge making it an elevated position that some quail had survived but it was the only place I located any in the County.

We waited two years and free of charge in every way my brother restocked Essex County with two hundred pairs and now the quail have come back.

HABITAT

What happened just about this time, someone had conceived the idea that all North America needed to bring back the game was habitat, habitat, habitat. We received literature monthly for five or ten years from all the game Protective Societies that had beeen taken over by Wild Life Biologists and the whole remedy was habitat. We certainly believe in habitat because we have planted 53,000 trees and fruit bearing shrubs on our Sanctuary dating back to 1904 but I am here to tell you if the skunks, raccoon, crows, black birds and other predators have cleaned up the game before you plant the habitat you can plant all the habitat you want and it won't bring back the game.

Bob White Quail raised by Jasper Wilson Miner on the Jack Miner Sanctuary between the years 1928 — 1958. Jasper raised quail in captivity for restocking purposes and free of charge restocked Essex County when the native quail were exterminated in th year 1948 or there about. He was the first successful breeder on the Continnt to breed and raise them by the thosuands.

Some literature we received said to plant multi-flora-rose. Yes, it is a wonderful shelter in States where you do not have excessive snow but here in the north where we have snow several feet deep the multi-flora-rose only acts as a death trap because the quail and pheasants take shelter on the ground in such habitat but after a snow storm and blizzard it is one big snow bank with the game covered over with a bank of snow two or three feet deep.

Two biologists from a State in Northern U.S.A. recently said "We have found that rows of multi-flora-rose makes it easy for skunks to find quail and pheasant nets. The birds stay in the rows of multi-flora rose and when it comes time to nest they just go out a few feet from these rows and the predators clean the nests up where as in former year with the birds nestitng over a fifty or hundred acres the nests were much harder for the skunk or fox to find."

HABITAT CONTINUED ON PAGE 30

Fish

My father never made a study of fish other than going with fishing parties from Chicago to their private fishing reserves in Northern Wisconsin and Minnesota. These wealthy men in Chicago had their own fishing reserves and hatcheries and they explained how several fresh water streams and lakes had only suckers, carp and northern pike in them. The suckers and carp ate the fish eggs and the pike at the young fish called fingerlings, — the same as crows eat bird eggs and hawks prey on young and old song birds. The first job they did was to clean the suckers, carp and pike out of the lake and then by aid of their fish hatcheries they restocked their streams with trout and father said trout were so thick he saw them go up stream by the hundreds. He said these men with their own private hatchery were furnishing fishing for miles and miles around as the streams outside of their acreage were public fishing grounds. One and all said they had to take the rough fish out before they planted the little trout (fingerlings) in the stream and lakes.

Father explained that from his study of game birds the same should apply with restocking an area with pheasants, quail or partridge, that is, to him he felt it was foolish to liberate pheasants in an area infested with raccoon, skunks, weasels, crows and other predators. Imagine having laws to prosecute you or me if we shoot a pheasant out of season and at the same time protect a great horned owl that will take a pheasant every day if it can be found — yes and prosecute you if you shoot the owl. To us this policy does not make sense.

Speaking of fish in Northern Ontario there are several fresh water streams and lakes with no pollution whatever for hundreds of miles around yet these streams and lakes fifty years ago had trout but now are full of suckers and northern pike. I have had Members of Parliament tell me that as a boy they fished these streams and where trout were a half century ago they are gone. All I could say to them was if there were no factories polluting the water then they could have trout in them, the same as areas in Northern Wisconsin and Minnesota, but you cannot have this if the Government takes the policy of "nature will balance itself" because my father Jack Miner said that the policy that nature would balance itself is a "do nothing have nothing policy". Why have game wardens, biologists, fish inspectors and such like if nature will balance itself? Just let everything go.

This reminds me of a Government fish inspector who some years ago came to our little town of Kingsville to inspect the commercial fishermen's catch. Kingsville is the most southern town in Canada located on Lake Erie where as high as 22 fishermen's boats had their headquarters and came in every night with their tons of fresh water fish catch. A government inspector comes in occasionally to inspect size, type and kind of fish and record the tonnage, etc. A few years ago one of these inspectors came in and in the presence of a half dozen fishermen the inspector had to ask the fishermen the name, kind or type of fish some were. Why do I tell you this? — because you wouldn't believe me if I were to tell you the position this man with all his degrees now holds. It just makes me think of my late father when he said, "Get all the education you can and then add the learning."

Bounty System

The bounty system has become one of our most controversial subjects in Wild Life Management and I feel I have as much right to express an opinion as a University Professor that never spent any period of his life in the open country where we see the need of predator control.

As an introduction to this subject I would like to quote one of my father's last interviews. He said "a bounty system is O.K. but it had to be large enough to be effective." He continued by saying, "I am in favour of a bounty if large enough to be effective until some other means has been found to drastically reduce the predators to the same proportion man reduces our game." He also said, "I notice the ones mostly opposed to bounties are the ones who do not believe in killing any thing or in other words take the policy that nature will balance itself." He climaxed his interview by saying, "If I were to promote and ask for a bounty on hawks, owls and crows the first to oppose it would be the group of wild life biologists and professors that say a bounty is no good — if a bounty is no good well why oppose it?"

Father and myself between the years 1920 and 1930 did considerable research regarding the bounty system and here is what we found.

All during the last century 1800 to 1900 and from 1900 to 1930 the price of raccoon, fox, skunk and other predators acted as an incentive or you can call it a bounty to kill these fur bearing animals that live on our game. The price of these furs made it worth while for trappers. Think of some of the families and Companies like the Astors, Hudson Bay Co., Revillion Freres Co. and many more who made fabulous sums, fortunes out of furs. Thus I repeat myself and say with a price of a raccoon hide being between $25.00 and $50.00 this made an incentive for man to hunt and trap this animal; the same with a red fox. At one time I had statistics that were compiled by the Government from tanneries because all these hides had to be tanned and for raccoon, foxes and skunk alone the tanneries reported tanning millions, yes millions of these three species each year.

These were the days before we had closed automobiles and everyone had a coon skin coat but when the cutters, sleighs and open buggies were done away with the textile companies produced warm enough clothing to care for humanity's needs.

Let me illustrate it this way: The early part of this century our forefathers in Canada and northern part of the U.S. had fur coats. Why one important part of a boy's university wardrobe was a raccoon or "coonskin" fur coat.

Let me relate this one experience to illustrate my point: When father was in New York speaking at a banquet in the Waldorf Astoria hotel a man in the audience by the name of Thos. Cochran came to him after the address and engaged him to go to Phillips Academy at Andover, Mass. At the appointed time he went and also visited Cambridge University and what impressed him most were the elm trees two hundred years old that lined the streets in Andover and the raccoon skin coats all the university boys had. He said every university student had a coon skin coat. Your forefathers can vouch for this here in Canada and other parts of the U.S.A. We will always remember father's trip to Phillips Academy because Mr. Cochran who was Vice-President of the J. P. Morgan Co. sent father home in his private New York Central Railway car and a staff of attendants including a porter and cook.

We boys felt for father to come home in a private railway car was great, but father felt that what was much greater were trees around Phillips Academy at Andover and the students wearing raccoon coats.

This started a friendship between father and Mr. Cochran and that fall he came to Canada to shoot ducks at the Long Point Duck Club and he came up to honor us with a visit and I will always remember the dark raccoon coat he wore which nearly touched the ground and were all selected dark hides. He told us he paid $2,200.00 for the coat; this means the trapper would receive near $100.00 per skin. Why I am telling you this is because this $100.00 per skin acted as a bounty.

Starting about 1930 to 1935 the bottom dropped out of the fur industry and father while in Chicago learned authentically that the demand for furs had gone and the prices were nil and has stayed nil. Here in Canada in 1964-1965-1966-1967 they were only offering $1.00, $1.25,, $1.50 $2.00 for raccoon skins. The demand is gone, gone, gone and improved textiles have taken their place.

Between 1930 and 1935 some twenty-two tanneries went out of business in northern U.S. especially in the north west States of U.S.A.

Thus as far as bounties were concerned the high price of furs acted as a bounty and with no financial incentive raccoon skunks, and foxes have all increased out of proportion until the country is overrun by them and they are living on our game and the government of your and my country are paying biologists salaries to go through the country telling us "nature will balance itself" and "all we need is habitat."

I repeat myself and say the ones telling us a bounty is no good are the first to oppose a bounty on hawks, owls and other predators if I were to suggest same.

The trouble is, and we find ourselves in these circumstances, the predators have increased so fast. Take a coon giving birth to say six, — How many will you have next year, and next year and next and so on. The price of furs kept them under control but now they are overrunning the country.

I want to give you some recent facts and personal observations so you can see the situation we are in.

The year before my late father died he caught 73 skunks in three traps on ten acres at the Sanctuary. The biologists yelled and said "the skunks were attracted there by the birds on the Sanctuary." They always have some kind of an answer if they live in the city and don't see or know the situation. However I went to a farmer some five miles away who owned 50 acres of land and gave him three traps and asked his son to set them for skunks and in the months of July and August which is after the mating season he caught 53 skunks during the hot summer months.

Two springs ago in March when the skunks came out of hibernation I drove to Windsor some twenty-five miles and counted 32 dead skunks on the highway that had been freshly killed by automobiles.

I told the Wild Life Biologists these facts and they said "they will get rabies and die." I have been waiting for fifty years for this to happen but the skunks keep on increasing and pheasants decreasing. To wait for the skunks to get rabies is just another do nothing have nothing policy.

Raccoons have become so thick they have invaded the local towns and eat the garbage from the garbage cans. Last winter one farmer killed 16 full grown raccoon

that were hibernating in a tobacco barn where baled hay was stored. On driving from our Sanctuary to a little summer cottage I have which is only six miles, one night after a rain I saw passed five full grown raccoon. On driving from Kingsville, Ontario to London, Ontario approximately 100 miles I saw eight dead raccoon on the side of the road which had been killed by autos.

The Jack Miner Sanctuary is located in the suburbs of a little town known as Kingsville which is the most southern town in Canada. We are 30 miles south of Windsor, Ontario and Detroit, Michigan. The area from Kingsville to Toronto is known as south western Ontario with a trans-Canada Highway known as 401 going direct from the Kingsville area to Toronto which is six or eight rods wide. I motor this 250 miles to Toronto return trip perhaps four or five times a year and am continually observing bird life. One motors through agricultural areas and wood lots galore and what do you see? Every few miles you will see a pair of hawks, some times just the male hawk which means the female is nesting. You then see crows galore, blackbirds, blue jays by the thousands. I have never seen an English pheasant or grouse dead on this highway. Let me throw out a challenge to any doubting this. I will give any person one dollar for every song and insectivorous bird he or she sees on this trip if he or she will give me ten cents for every hawk, blackbird, crow or blue jay he or she sees.

Here in Essex County I never saw a blue jay in the summer until five years ago (1963) but now they are here by the thousands and in the fall they migrate down from the north by the millions. I have not seen a blue bird in our Sanctuary for thirty years and have not seen any migrating through for twenty-five years when I would see small flocks of twenty-five or fifty which are easily distinguished by their little delicate call they give as they are migrating. I have not seen a dozen red headed woodpeckers during the last fifteen or twenty years when I used to see a dozen a day and never look for them.

Insecticides — Pesticides

Yes I read every thing I see re insecticides and pesticides but you must remember in Northern Ontario there are 250,000 — a quarter million or more square miles of dense wilderness where no insecticides or pesticides are used and where our warblers, tree creepers, blue birds and song birds nest and I am sincerely telling one and all that the hawks, crows, blue jays and bronze grackle have multiplied by the tens of millions because each fall I see them migrating through and to the bird lover who does not know it the crows, blue jays and bronze grackle (crow black bird) live and raise their young on other birds' eggs as well as young newly hatched birds while the hawks live on the fully mature birds and to those wild life biologists who tell you "they only take the sick and the delicate" I say long ago they ran out of sick and delicate specimens to eat and are living on the well developed blue birds and other insect eating birds.

I am not a hunter or killer but I am telling one and all what is and has happened. My father reported what was happening in an article he wrote forty years ago but I am sure he never realized even then that the crows, black birds, hawks and blue jays would over the last half century be multiplied by the tens of millions. Come see for yourself. Essex County in which we live is surrounded by water on three sides with the most fertile land on the continent. It is perhaps 30 miles of an area each way and Bronze Grackles (crow black bird) are here by the tens of millions. Come see for yourself in August and September.

Oh yes it is true bronze grackles, blue jays and crows will eat worms, bugs, beatles and insects therefore if it was insecticide killing our birds, black birds and blue jays would died in the same proportion as our valuable birds have disappeared. Remember any one of our valuable birds such as robins, blue birds, tree creepers or other insect eating birds will eat as many worms as a black bird and one black bird will eat a hundred of song and insectivorous birds' eggs and young birds or even more if they can be found.

I am in no way upholding and approving insecticides, pesticides, D.D.T. and etc. but I am saying if it were these man made poisons that were wholly accountable for the death of our song and insectivorous birds they would have decreased our black birds, blue jays and crows in the same proportion because these predators at certain seasons of the year eat bugs, beetles and etc.

I could go on at length and give above facts and illustrations to emphasize the need for predator control.

I had two medical doctors with their wives from North Dakota call on me enroute to a Medical Convention in New York. These doctors both lived in a city but were sportsmen. They had gone out in the country where they shoot pheasants in the fall, the land owner took them to a fox den where they found forty-four hen pheasant wings and wanted my comment. The fact they were all hen pheasants was proof to me that the foxes had killed the pheasants on their nests because if they had killed the pheasants in the open field there would be cock pheasants as well as hen pheasants. Moreover it's proof these birds were not killed on the highway because if they were birds killed by automobiles there would be cock birds as well as hens.

These two doctors said "ever since the Biologists took over our Fish and Game Dept. and said we do not need pheasant hatcheries, we do not need fish hatcheries, we do not need a bounty on foxes, nature will balance itself, our game has become depleted." These two doctors agreed with me when I referred to this as a do nothing have nothing policy and fully agreed with me if nature would balance itself, why have game wardens, biologists or even a Fish and Game Dept?

As far as habitat is concerned they said "there is practically the same habitat today as there was a few years ago when we harvested thousands of cock birds annually."

Thanks be to God some of the Wild Life Biologists are beginning to believe what we said is true. I quote from Minneapolis Tribune, Sunday, Oct. 8, 1967 where the outdoor writer interviewed Mr. Maynard Nelson who heads the Minnesota research program in which he is quoted as saying: "We are discovering that predators are taking most of our pheasant population and not the hunters."

Also right here I would like to quote another So. Dakota outdoor column dated Sept. 5, 1965 in which the Wild Life Editor in capital letters starts his column off by saying "Game Biologists and Santa Claus have something in common these days, nobody believes in them any more."

To the Game Commissioners of North and South Dakota, Michigan and Pennsylvania I say sincerely as the two doctors who interviewed me from North Dakota said, "As far as habitat is concerned the habitat today is practically the same as it was when pheasants were thick." But when the Biologists took over and tried to brain wash the officials that foxes and other predators were needed to balance nature the foxes increased along with the skunks and other predators all out of proportion. I know the whole story, most certainly foxes will eat mice but the number of pheasants they eat, hen pheasants nesting, offsets the good

I repeat myself right here and say and say it emphatically I do not go along with the philosophy of prosecuting a hunter for shooting a pheasant out of season and protecting a great horned owl for committing the same act every day and prosecuting you if you shoot the great horned owl.

I have watched the pheasants decrease in North and South Dakota ever since the Biologists made no effort to reduce the foxes. My brother and I are watching Michigan which is following the pattern of the Dakotas and not doing anything to reduce the foxes and what we prophesied two years ago has come true and now we are watching Pennsylvania and see if during the next two years they don't hear from the hunters because they are relaxing in predator control.

What I am trying to say is when North and South Dakota stopped their predator control program the pheasants started to decrease. When Michigan stopped raising a breeding stock of pheasants and stopped their predator control the hunters started to notice pheasant decrease and now the last year Pennsylvania has relaxed its Predator Control and we are waiting to see when the hunters notice their reduction in pheasants and habitat is practically the same in these states as it was eight, ten, twelve or fifteen years ago when there was an abundance of pheasants. If the biologists tell you it is O.K. to shoot hen pheasants tell them Manly Miner said hen pheasants cannot lay eggs when they are dead.

Again I want to shout out loud and say as far as habitat is concerned the habitat is practically the same as it has been for twenty years. I drive across Michigan occasionally and from Detroit to Jackson, Mich. is a perfect pheasant country — valleys and hills the same as it has been for twenty-five years, so why say the whole solution is habitat?

Last week (Sept. 1968) I drove north from Detroit on Highway 75 past Pontiac, Flint, Midland and habitat is the same as twenty five years ago but with the hills and valleys it is a perfect breeding ground for skunks which will clean up all the pheasant eggs they can find. The occasional skunk was seen dead on the highway. The value of the skunk hide is nil and no incentive for a trapper to trap them. No bounty on the fox and crows abounding all over the place.

To illustrate my point along this line of thought — we have a situation here in Ontario. Ontario, according to Govt. figures, has between 10,000 and 12,000 timber wolves. In areas they have exterminated the deer and are now becoming a menace to the farmers' sheep and other farm animals. We have laws to prosecute or imprison a trapper or settler if he shoots a deer out of season for his winter food and at the same time have biologists going through our country telling us "we need timber wolves to balance nature."

The sad part about the whole situation is Ontario is spending thousands of dollars annually for a deer feeding project, what for? — to raise deer to feed the wolves because some of our biologists belong to the Wolf Protective Society in U.S.A. I nor my father never used the word "extermination" but I would like to see the 12,000 wolf population in Ontario reduced to 500 and if necessary fence in a large acreage in Algonquin Park to be used as a Wolf Sanctuary. I certainly am not in favour of raising deer to feed 12,000 timber wolves weighing from 75 lbs. to perhaps the occasional one which will weigh 125 lbs.

Ontario Professors Eat Butterflies

I hold in my hand the front page of The Toronto Globe and Mail, March 11, 1957 which shows a picture of a Monarch butterfly and a note under same says see page 3; I then turn to page 3 and find an article entitled "Scientists Eat Butterflies. Find it rather sweet." The story goes on to say that Dr. F. A. Urquhart, Zoology Professor in Toronto, has the reputation of enjoying a diet of Monarch butterflies and put on a demonstration before an audience of 800 persons in Toronto's famous auditorium Convocation Hall. The other professors participating were Dr. A. M. Fallis an Dr. J. R. Dymond.

These men are very honorable and most respected men or they could not have received the degrees they have but I do not agree with their philosophy of eating butterflies. I never majored in eating butterflies to put on a public demonstration before 800 people as reported in the Globe and Mail March 11, 1957.

The article quotes Dr. Urquhart as saying the Monarch butterfly is not untasteful. The article quotes Dr. J. R. Dymond as saying "he proffered the dead butterfly — he popped it into his mouth and looked very much like a who is about to eat and run." He said "it tasted like toast," the same finding reported by Dr. Urquhart a few weeks ago. Dr. Fallis was prepared for his meal. He produced two slices of bread and offered to make a sandwich. "The butterfly," Dr. Fallis later said thoughtfully, "tasted rather sweet."

The above are only a few quotations from a full column illustrated with pictures of two professors eating these butterflies.

I want to emphasize that my father nor I never did subscribe to eating butterflies in private or before an audience of 800. It is immaterial to me how many butterflies any professor regardless of how many degrees they have and initials before and after their name eat, but earnestly I do not take the above incidents as a joke because according to press reports Dr. J. R. Dymond has been the chief advisor to the Ontario Fish and Game Department for twenty-five or more years. To me it is no wonder our Fish and Game condition in Ontario is as it is.

To the Ontario Members of Parliament it would be interesting to know how many of Professor Dymond's students have been or are now employed with the Ontario Fish and Game Department?

For thirty more or less years we have had students who studied Biology under Professor J. R. Dymond who have visited our Sanctuary annually and tell us Dr. Dymond did not agree with Jack Miner on reducing crows, on reducing wolves and other predators. He preached this philosophy of touch nothing and do nothing to many other university professors in other colleges. The result is the wolves have exterminated the deer in several areas in Ontario and I have had Wild Life Biologists employed by the Ontario Government tell me "that we needed timber wolves to balance nature." I of course would ask them what balances deer in Pennsylvania, Michigan, West Virginia and Kentucky? or even in our own Province of Nova Scotia? where there are no wolves.

Biscotasing

Biscotasing, commonly known as Bisco, is on the C.P.R. between Sudbury and Chapleau. The trappers, guides and tourist camps headed by the late "Mike" Bates spent considerable time trying to get something done about the wolves that were and have destroyed the deer in that area. For years they complained of the area being overrun

by wolves. About fifteen years ago in late January or early February two biologists arrived there whether they came from Toronto or New York I never found out because about that time a group in New York had sent some biologists through that area.

An Indian guide and a white trapper told me of these Wild Life Biologists coming and spending three days in the area and this is the story and exact report this Indian guide and white trapper told me: They said "those bugologists don't know nothin'. They stayed three days and all they said when they left was 'we have got to have an open season on Cow Moose because the woods is full of Cow Moose and no bulls'." The guide and white trapper asked them how they knew they were all cow moose and the "bugologists" said "the bulls have horns." These Biologists which they called "bugologists" did not know the bull moose shed their horns every winter.

I have often wondered if these two biologists were students of Dr. J. R. Dymond because any professor that will stand up before an audience of 800 in Toronto's Convocation Hall and eat butterflies I do not subscribe to his philosophy any more than I subscribe to Professor Durward L. Allen's philosophy when he said "killing predators won't increase game."

This article or booklet is entitled "Jack Miner's Conservation Policy — his philosopphy and reasoning" and in bringing my remarks to a close I want to emphasize that neither my father nor myself ever walked to town barefooted with our pant legs rolled up through four feet of snow with the temperature at 20 degrees below zero and had to be escorted home with a police nor do we subscribe to the policy of any Toronto university professors especially an advisor to the Ontario Fish and Game of putting on an exhibition or display of eating Monarch butterflies before an audience of 800 as reported by The Toronto Globe and Mail on March 11, 1957.

Again I repeat myself and say that North Dakota, South Dakota, New York State and now Pennsylvania and Michigan always had good hunting until the biologists took over and discarded restocking areas and taking the attitude nature will balance itself and not a word said about predator control and foxes, raccoon and other predators have all increased to unreasonable numbers.

Hon. Jay N. Darling

In 1955 I could plainly see the Wild Life Biology professors had taken over especially when the Izaak Walton League magazine known as Outdoor America published an article showing a photo of pheasants in a pheasant hatchery in New York State and the caption underneath same read "Money Wasted." They did away with pheasant hatcheries. I replied and said there would not be a pheasant in North America if man had not imported them and raised them and stocked this continent. My father was the first to restock pheasants in Canada which dates back to between 1890 and 1900 which is all recorded in his book entitled "Jack Miner and The Birds."

Year by year between 1945 and 1955 I saw how the Biologists had taken over and discarded several wild life programs such as restocking streams with fish and many had closed their game hatcheries. I tried to explain to the men of this school of thought that if raising and releasing pheasants was a failure it was because they were liberating them where there was no predator control program and the birds they let loose were eaten up by foxes and eggs eaten by raccoon, crows, blue jays and skunks. To offset their argument I repeated myself and said there wouldn't be a pheasant in North America if man hadn't imported, bred, raised and liberated them but of course that was mostly done when the price of furs was high and the trappers kept the fur bearing animals in control or should we say to a reduced level in proportion to the game birds.

I could see what I felt were several moves which were unpractical and promoted and threw out policies that proved a success with our forefathers so on August 18, 1955 I wrote The Honorable Jay N. Darling who was known as "Ding" Darling who had made a great contribution to the Conservation of his generation, so much so the U. S. Government made him chief of the U. S. Biological Survey in Washington, D.C. The Biological Survey was forerunner of the U. S. Wild Life Service. I went into detail in telling him what had happened and the balance of nature theory was put into effect in several States which my father and I always called a "do nothing have nothing" program.

On August 23 only one week from the time I wrote him he replied and I quote the first paragraph of his letter:—

"Des Moines, Iowa
"Dear Manly August 23, 1955

"I share your dismay over the trends which characterize the new leadership in Conservation. I had hoped that I was wrong in my own conclusions but your letter of August 18th leads me to suspect that what I feared was really true. I have no longer the health or strength to participate in a new Conservation revolution and it is with great regret that I see Secretary McKay reversing every traditional Conservation principle which have been built up in my generation.

"As ever Sincerely
(Signed) "Ding Darling"
"J. N. Darling"

This paragraph in Mr. Darling's letter is evidence to you of what he a man in authority as chief of the Biological Survey felt about my father's philosophy.

It seems ridiculous when game is so scarce in some areas that a hunter is only allowed a few days in the fall to shoot and a bag limit of say a half dozen pheasants, grouse or quail and the government pay hundreds of thousands of dollars to employ game wardens to see that the hunter does not shoot during the closed season and at the same time protect the great horned owl and other predators that will take a pheasant, partridge, quail or grouse every day for 365 days in the year and prosecute the hunter if he shoots the great horned owl. The moors of Scotland and Pelee Island does not need predators to balance nature. The hunters are allowed to shoot the excessive number of birds.

Dear Reader — This foregoing article entitled My Father Jack Miner's Conservation Policy, His Philosophy and Reasoning has been written by me and I have personally paid for having it printed and put into booklet form and am personally distributing it free of charge throughout the country.

IN NO WAY DO I HAVE OR HOLD ANY ANIMOSITY TOWARD ANY INDIVIDUALS WHOSE NAME I HAVE MENTIONED BUT IT IS THE POLICY THEY ARE PROMOTING, THE POLICY, NOT THE PERSON. I FEEL WITH US LIVING IN A DEMOCRACY WE ALL HAVE A RIGHT TO EXPRESS OUR OPINION BUT I AM SORRY THAT MANY WILD LIFE BIOLOGISTS WHOM I HAVE SPOKEN TO FEEL THAT WE PEOPLE WHO HAVE NOT SPENT FOUR YEARS IN A UNIVERSITY SHOULD NOT EVEN HAVE AN OPINION. SPEAKING ALONG THIS LINE OF THOUGHT I AM THINKING OF INDIAN JOE WHO ONCE SAID "EVERY BODY THINK LIKE ME EVERY BODY WANT MY WIFE."

To the younger generation that was not born when my father lived I would like to say that he for thirty years, 1910 to 1940, had a lecture career that took him from Florida to Alaska and from British Columbia to Newfoundland. He was preaching the need for Conservation. When he died the biography writers claimed he had spoken to more people than any other person because he drew audiences of 13,000 in three days in Winnipeg and filled all the large auditoriums on the continent such as Massey Hall, Toronto; Tremont Temple, Boston; State Educational Bldg., Albany; Chatauqua Auditorium, Chatauqua; Carnegie Hall, New York, and such banquet rooms as the Waldorf Astoria, New York.

In his Sanctuary home one entire room is devoted to medals, tributes, citations and scrolls but the three crowning tributes I feel were:

(1) A Commonwealth honor when His Majesty King George VI conveyed upon him the O.B.E. (Order of the British Empire) with a citation which read: "For the greatest achievement in Conservation in the British Empire."

(2) As a Canadian National honor on Friday, April 18th, 1947 the Canadian House of Commons (Congress) and Canadian Senate passed an Act of Parliament by a unanimous vote setting aside the week of April 10th which was Jack Miner's birthday to be known as Canadian National Wild Life Week when schools, service clubs, churches, outdoor and civic organizations are asked to observe the week in memory of Jack Miner.

The Right Honorable Mackenzie King, Prime Minister of Canada, telephoned my late mother after the Bill was passed and announced this national honor which had been passed that day in memory of her late husband. He said it was the first Bill or Act of Parliament that had ever passed unanimously by the Members of the Canadian House of Commons and Senate since Confederation which was the time of the beginning of the Canadian Parliament.

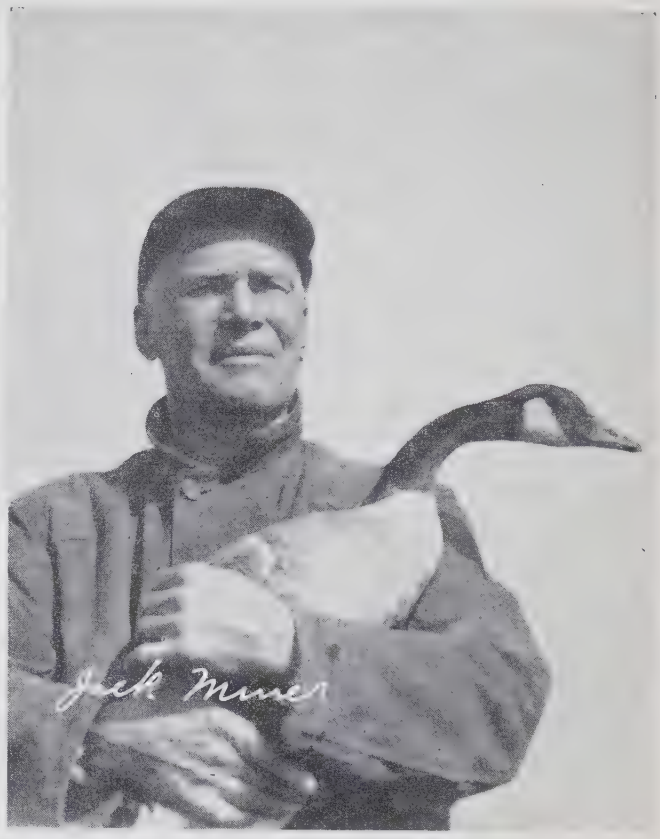
With our activities being located so near Detroit, Michigan, the Mayor of Detroit and his Council some years ago passed a Proclamation to observe Jack Miner's birthday in the Detroit schools. Upon invitation from the Mayor, Mr. Albert E. Cobo, of Detroit, I attended a Council meeting at which time he and the members of his Council unanimously passed the Proclamation setting aside the week of April 10th to be known as Jack Miner Week. As I walked out of the Council chamber the Mayor affectionately took hold of my arm and said, "The City of Detroit observes one day for Lincoln's and one day for Washington's birthdays but Detroit observes one week for Jack Miner's birthday." Mr. Cobo continued by saying, "The citizens of Detroit and Michigan well realize how Jack Miner and now the Jack Miner Fundation free of charge in every way for many years has entertained thousands of school children of this city and state at his world famous bird Sanctuary annually."

(3) The third was a great world honor and tribute to my father when Hon. Dag Hammarskjold, Secretary General of the United Nations, contacted me and said there were several official delegates to the United Nations who were not going home for the Christmas holidays and they had voted unanimously to go to the Jack Miner Sanctuary and on December 27, 1956 some thirty-three official delegates of the United Nations from different European, Asian and African countries, accompanied by their wives, secretaries and interpreters came by special plane to Detroit air port where Chrysler Automobile Co. furnished automobiles to bring them from the airport here.

They arrived at 2 P.M. and were taken to Windsor at 7 P.M. where we had arranged a dinner for them.

Before they left they visited the sarcophagus on our Sanctuary where my father's and mother's bodies are entombed and each in their own language paid tribute to my father and the Conservation work we are carrying on and the Bird Sanctuary system father had pioneered across the entire continent and was even copied in several countries in Europe.

Dr. Jamali, twice President of Iraq and eight times a delegate to the United Nations who led the party in his farewell remarks said, "We have made history today because never since the founding of the United Nations did a delegation of thirty-three official members of the U. N. go in a body to honor a man, not even to the White House in U. S. A. or the Government House in Ottawa."



Habitat Continued from Page 25

Why I tell you this story about habitat is because our university students were all taught that habitat is the solution to bringing our game back. As proof of this a few years after the bob white quail were exterminated in Essex County, as I outlined above, a Government issued a statement in their news release that through the lack of habitat in Essex County the bob white quail is having a hard time to survive. This might not be the exact wording but the writer who I presume was an "educated biologist" made it a definite fact that the death of the quail in Essex County was lack of habitat. The fact is the habitat in Essex County is the same as it has been the last fifty years. There are thousands of acres that have never had a plow in it and Essex County is a Peninsula surrounded by water where the cat tail duck marsh joins the land where quail always have wintered. Why did all the quail die on the Miner Sanctuary that were not in enclosures? Why did all the bob white quail die in Point Pelee National Park where the habitat has been the same for centuries? The fact the quail all became exterminated during the last two weks of August and th early part of September — what does habitat have to do with their survival in August and September?

THE HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA.

BILL 2.

An Act respecting a National Wild Life Week.

AS PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, FRIDAY, 18th APRIL, 1947.

IS Majesty by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and House of Commons of Canada, enacts as follows:—

Short title.

1. This Act may be cited as The National Wild Life Week Act.

National Wild Life Week.

2. Throughout Canada in each year, the week in which the tenth day of April occurs (being the anniversary of the birthday of the late Jack Miner) shall be known and observed as the National Wild Life Week, so that interested clubs, associations and organizations may, on the day of that week most suitable to them, disseminate information pertinent to wild life conservation.

EXPLANATORY NOTE.

The purpose of this Bill is to proclaim the week of April 10, in each and every year as the National Wild Life Week.

April 10, being the anniversary of the birthday of the late Jack Miner, the great Canadian Naturalist who devoted a lifetime to the cause of Wild Life Conservation, such a week would be a national tribute to the man who did more than any other to create public interest in the value of Canadian Wild Life resources and consideration for their natural habitats.

The setting apart of the full week of April 10, would permit the choice of the most suitable day for the convenience of every sort of Club, Association or Organization interested in Wild Life Conservation and nature study to proclaim meetings, indoor and outdoor, from platform, over the radio or the printed word, the great value to the nation of Wild Life Conservation in every sphere, sporting, tourist, educational, esthetic, ornithological, ecological, etc. as well as in food.

The late Jack Miner's writings in newspaper columns, his public addresses and books awakened continental public interest in conservation of the wild life resources of the entire continent and throughout the world.

OTTAWA
EDMOND CLOUTIER, C.M.G., B.A., L.Ph.,
PRINTER TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY
CONTROLLER OF STATIONERY
89231 1947

PROCLAMATION

City of Detroit . Executive Office

LOUIS C. MIRIANI
Mayor

JACK MINER WEEK

April 6-12, 1959

WHEREAS A deserved and enduring tribute was paid to the world's greatest naturalist and founder of the Sanctuary at Kingsville, Ontario, which bears his name, when Parliament of the Dominion of Canada passed an act fixing the week of April 10th as Wild Life Week in honor of the birthday of the late Jack Miner, and

WHEREAS Countless thousands of Detroiters have been privileged to visit the Sanctuary and enjoy this unique spot--one of the most interesting places on the North American Continent, and

WHEREAS The citizens of this Motor City feel a particular nearness to the people of our sister nation and a sincere esteem for her honored citizens:

THEREFORE, I, Louis C. Miriani, Mayor, proclaim the week of April 6-12 to be

JACK MINER WEEK

in Detroit as a token of our desire to join in honoring Canada's famed conservationist.

Given under my hand and seal
this 3rd day of April, 1959

SEAL OF MAYOR OF THE CITY OF DETROIT, MICHIGAN
SPERAMUS MELIOR
RESURGIT CINERE EJUS

Louis C. Miriani
Mayor

When the geese come back in the Spring
And they learn that their friend has gone,
I wonder will they take to wing
And try to follow him on?

When they look for their friend again
As they've done in the years before
Will they stay with us who remain
Or seek him the wide world o'er?

They loved him, the young and the old,
Wild geese and the whistling swan!
What then, when the flocks are told
The man who was kind is gone?

There were hunters wherever they flew,
And snares for the careless wing.
Now, they'll grieve for the friend they knew
When the birds come back in the Spring.

EDGAR A. GUEST

JACK MINER'S PHILOSOPHY

by

Margaret Wade

If one is asked to think of the men of various nations to whose genius the whole world now lays claim, the names that first come to mind are those of the scholars of ancient Greece such as Pythagoras, Plato and Aristotle; but coming nearer, and into, our own times we acknowledge, from Germany, the musicians Bach, Beethoven and Brahms, the educator Froebel, and the scientists in their differing fields, Rontgen and Einstein; from France, Braille, de Lesseps, Pasteur and the Curies; from the United States, Burroughs, Edison and Burbank; from Canada, Sir Chas, Saunders, Sir William Osler and Sir Frederick Banting. The chief distinction held by all of those is not merely the high degree of learning they attained by personal study along original lines. It is, rather, the benefits which that learning has conferred upon the whole body of their fellowmen. In that direction — study along original lines and consequent benefits conferred — the Canadian naturalist, the late Jack Miner, O.B.E., takes his place beside the others.

For approximately the last twenty-three years of his life, I was well acquainted with Jack Miner, had the opportunity of assisting him on many occasions in the preparation of his writings for publication and — so his family informs me — more than any other individual was permitted to interview him. In this way I became fairly well versed in his philosophy and enjoyed his rare talent for looking at a subject from some unexpected angle and expressing his opinions in an original manner. Indeed it seems to me that anyone given to any depth of thought must have recognized in his philosophy much that was unique; and this I find to be the case.

For instance, in 1926, Professor W. S. Milner, instructor in Greek and Roman History in the University of Toronto, pointed a similarity between Jack Miner's philosophy and the teaching of Aristotle; for, in preparing his final examination paper for fourth year students in the classics, that year, he set this question: "Jack Miner says: "If you are privileged to live in the country, you can make your home into a little earthly heaven by interfering with the balance of Nature, as some call it, but, as I deem it, assisting Nature." What would Aristotle have to say?"

Professor Milner went on to say: "Jack Miner takes for his authority verses 21-26-28 in the first Chapter of the Book of Genesis, where it is written that God created everything, the fish of the sea, the fowl of the air, and so on; and said, then: "Let us make Man in our image, after our likeness; and let Men have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the fowl of the air, over the cattle, and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.'" It would seem that this eminent teacher, Professor Milner, found a similarity in the philosophies of the ancient scholar and the modern naturalist.

Nor was he alone in this perception of the greatness of Jack Miner. Major Allan Brooks, for instance, was another of his admirers. Major Brooks was that world famous Canadian artist who spent practically his whole time in the open for the purpose of observing the birds and their habits in order that he might paint perfectly lifelike studies of them. After his death it was pointed out that in a number of the letters he had written, he had expressed himself as in complete agreement with Jack Miner on the latter's theory that it was left entirely to man to control and balance Nature, as set forth in the book of Genesis.

Many a time when interviewing Jack Miner I have heard him say: "Nature is wonderful — Man is more wonderful — God is most wonderful." On several occasions I have heard him say from the lecture platform: "Man is Nature's first assistant, or God's viceroy." And, "What is man without God?" he would ask. In his books and newspaper articles always he would write: "God put the birds and animals here for man's use and control."

It was his custom to illustrate his point in this way: "If the potato bugs attack my potatoes, or the lice attack my roses, I don't wait for God to send another bug or louse to destroy them, I use paris green." In this way, according to the ideas of some people, he was interfering with Nature. This rule he applied consistently. "God made the weed at the same time as He made the vegetable and the flower," he would say; "but if man didn't hoe the weeds out of his garden they soon would predominate and weeds would be all he would have."

He applied the same principle to bird life. He would say: "If there are one thousand ducks raised in a certain

township and man shoots five hundred for food, then it is up to man to reduce the ducks' enemies in the same proportion — that is, the crows and such, that devour the ducks' eggs, the vermin that slaughter the ducklings, and all such enemies." It seems most logical that in this contention Jack Miner was right; because man already had interfered with Nature by shooting the ducks, therefore man must balance Nature or otherwise he is combining his destructive forces with those of the predators. Jack Miner always said, "The minute man put foot on American soil, discharged a gun and shot a bird, he interfered with Nature; thus, it is up to man to balance Nature."

"If the field mice are girdling your fruit trees," he would ask, "is man to wait for God to send a hawk, weasel or owl to kill the mouse; or if the coyotes and wolves begin to prey on your sheep are you supposed to kill the coyotes and wolves or sit back and say Nature will balance itself?" To him it seemed utterly ridiculous for the Provinces to attempt to get rid of wolves and coyotes, by paying a bounty, while at the same time they were protected in the Federal National Parks and anyone shooting one there would be prosecuted. It just didn't make sense. Jack Miner's idea was that the wolves should be shot, wherever located, and the deer be allowed to increase for humanity to see alive; and, if the deer became too numerous in any given district, that the game wardens then reduce the herd and the meat be used as food in hospitals and state institutions.

A few years before Jack Miner died he was visited by a group of university students whom he described as "back-to-Nature theorists." They were discussing with him Natures' balance and pointed to the fact that in Kaibab Forest all the wolves and other predators were shot and, among the deer, only the bucks allowed to be hunted; and the result was that the deer became small and degenerate. How quick Jack Miner was to answer them! Because he had seen Kaibab Forest, of which these students had only read. He was able to explain a situation that, clearly, had been brought about by man's mismanagement. He said: "There are too many deer in the area for the grass, and other available food, to support. Man ought to reduce the herd, using the meat as food for humanity even though it is that of does and fawns, and not talk of bringing in wolves to effect this reduction. Most certainly the trees have all been browsed down. Why? Because a few "back-to-Nature theorists" would not allow the herd to be shot and reduced in proportion to the amount of food which the Forest produces." One of the last interviews Jack Miner gave was on the situation as it concerns deer in Michigan, and he warned that if the authorities did not reduce the herd by allowing either hunters or game wardens to shoot a number, then the same situation would arise as already existed in Kaibab Forest. To be sure, a pack of wolves would quickly reduce the number of the deer. But is it not far better for humanity to have the venison for food than a ravening pack of wolves be allowed to run wild and kill for the mere sport of killing, leaving the meat to rot on the ground?

Jack Miner was a staunch member of the Humane Society; and because he was truly humane-minded he said, always: "It is more humane to allow a deer to be shot and given instant death, than to let it, living, be torn to pieces by a horde of hungry wolves." "Or," he said, "isn't it far better for an aged mother-deer to be shot than that she should die of infirmity, her teeth dropping out so that she must die lingeringly of starvation?"

No wonder the late Irving S. Cobb always referred to Jack Miner as "the greatest practical naturalist on the planet!" His theory and philosophy were sound. And he simply put into practice what he believed and taught.

This same group of Nature students said to him: "Look what man did to the Passenger Pigeon! — pigeons that blackened the skies — that were here by the millions!" Jack Miner said, "Yes. When man interfered wih Nature by shooting those pigeons, as you say he did, then man ought to have reduced those birds and animals that preyed upon them in the same proportion. This, man failed to do; and carnivores and birds of prey increased out of all proportion to that which they fed upon." Man does not hunt these species as he does game birds, because game birds are good for food while the hawks, owls and rodents are not.

From the sportsman's point of view, and speaking of game birds, the English or ring-necked pheasant is one of the best illustrations of the success of artificial propagation. These birds all were imported from abroad, raised in captivity and liberated in various areas throughout North America; That is the only way in which they have come to be here — importation and increase through artificial care. Wherever they exist in great numbers they do so because of propagation under man's protection and subsequent liberation. Consider Pelee, in Lake Erie: No natural enemies of the pheasant of any kind exist on this small island, and the birds nest and live there undisturbed. As a consequence, in the autumn, for years, hunters have been taking an average annual toll of ten thousand birds. Look at the Dakotas, too: There, man, not God, propagated and liberated the pheasants.

During the last ten years of Jack Miner's life his mail-bag was full of letters asking, "What happened the ducks?" Everybody was pointing his finger at the gun as the sole cause of their disappearance, but it was Jack Miner's habit to state from platforms clear across the continent that seventy-five percent of the eggs laid by the ducks never matured to adult birds. Of course the public ridiculed the statement; they did not know the situation as did he, and they did not want to believe the truth he was telling them. What he knew to be the case was this: The predators, such as crows, skunks, magpies, weasels, mink, northern pike and turtles, had increased out of all proportion to the number of ducks and destroyed seventy-five percent of all eggs or young ducks before they had any chance to hatch and mature. He knew whereof he spoke because, back in the late twenties, he crossed Western Canada seven times in five years, and saw what was happening. Crows, for instance, were so numerous that they were nesting on the telegraph lines. Had these destroyers been reduced by the hunters in the same proportion as the hunters were reducing the duck population, men would not now be asking, "What happened to the ducks?" Man simply combined his efforts with those of the birds and animals of prey instead of reducing the number of the latter as he destroyed the ducks.

I have been greatly interested in the September 1, 1947, issue of Conservation News, published in Washington. The statement is made, therein, that in the summer of 1947 a group of scientists visited the Canadian breeding grounds of the ducks, found several nests, and examined them from day to day. Of these nests watched, twenty-one percent were destroyed by crows, eleven percent by ground squirrels, and nine percent by skunks. In other words, forty-one percent of them were wiped out before even the ducklings were hatched. The reader can estimate what percentage of the young would be devoured by snakes, turtles, hawks, owls, fish and other predators, after they were hatched. One is compelled to believe that Jack Miner's statement made twenty-five years ago was accurate and that, in truth, seventy-five percent of the duck eggs laid

never produce mature birds to fly out of the country. The scientists are to be congratulated for their research work and for making public their findings. Jack Miner, like other scientists and philosophers of earlier days, made an unpopular pronouncement which has been vindicated by time; he, too, was years ahead of his time.

As Jack Miner always pointed out, this idea of interfering with Nature or upsetting Nature's balance, as you call it, but as he called it assisting Nature, cannot rightly be applied in only one field of thought or endeavor. "It has to apply all the way down the line," he would say. If it did not, then one could not justly use artificial fertilizer on his lawns and fields; one couldn't re-stock streams with fish; one could not operate a sanctuary and provide for birds a place of safety; this, all, would be interfering with Nature. One couldn't kill a snake or a bedbug; one couldn't kill anything. He always said that when Christopher Columbus came to the American continent and first cut down a tree, he interfered with Nature; but that, as for himself, he was thankful that Christopher Columbus did come and that man has made North America a good place in which to live, and made it as God would have made it, not the wild, jungle-like continent it was before the white man came.

Jack Miner was definitely an outdoor, and original, Naturalist, as distinguished from the indoor, or student, type. His knowledge was gained from personal observation and deduction, not from the memorizing of data compiled half a century before his time and held in a book. He often related how, at the age of five years, he put pollywogs into cow-tracks, along a creek, and watched them develop into frogs. It was his continuous life in the open, and his long observation of the havoc wrought by the predators, that caused him to create his now world famous bird Sanctuary in 1904, where valuable birds could be protected not only from man but also from their natural enemies.

Jack Miner was in his eightieth year when he died. For the first forty years of his life he can be said to have lived entirely in the woods — that is, in a forested area that was in process of being cleared but gave ample opportunity to him as a hunter and observer of Nature in all its aspects. During the latter forty years, he not only was active on his Sanctuary, but also during this time he made special trips all over the continent — as far north as Alaska, as far south as Florida, east to Newfoundland, and west to the Pacific Coast. Between the years 1925 and 1935 he travelled seven times throughout Western Canada's drought section, and was familiar with this condition long before most people even had mention of drought there. For thirty years he went on lecture tours in order to raise money with which to feed the birds coming to his Sanctuary; and these lecture trips took him to every State, Provincial, Federal and National Park of both Canada and the United States. In this way he learned of game conditions, by actually seeing the game and its surroundings throughout the length and breadth of the continent. On several occasions during the thirty years that he lectured, he would be gone from his home for thirty days at a time, covering, perhaps, the Provinces of Western Canada, or two or three of the States of the U.S.A. He would deliver his lectures in the evenings; and this allowed him his days in which to study the game of the district, and the conditions of climate, food supply, and other animal life that might affect it. In the autumn, for fifty years in succession, he camped under canvas (always a new tent in the fall!) for the month of October and November; his camping sites were located from Lake Keepawa, in Quebec, to the Lake of the Woods in Western Ontario. During the summers he attended boys' camps from Camp Minaki to the Taylor- Statten camps in Algonquin Park. Indeed, it seems doubtful if any man ever spent more hours out of doors in various parts of North America than did Jack Miner. It was the widespread knowledge of conditions and variations in habits of birds and animals derived in this way that enabled him to speak with authority. He was, for instance, able to describe the habits and food of the marsh hawk living near a marsh in Wisconsin, as being in many respects just the opposite to those of a hawk of the same species living under differing conditions here in southwestern Ontario. He always said that an artist, who painted birds or animals, was a true naturalist, because such an artist was compelled to get out into the open and observe his subjects in action. In other words, no artist could paint a bird by sitting in an office, reading about it. It is for this reason that the late Major Allan Brooks, the Canadian artist — as well as other artists of note — agreed with Jack Miner on the subject of the control of predators. They, like Jack Miner, had seen for themselves the depredations of these birds and beasts of prey in their wild state.

Everyone sees the endless flocks of crows, migrating, day after day, in the fall; and as high as ten thousand hawks of various kinds have been viewed from the Miner home as they were migrating through to the southern States for the winter — more in numbers than all other birds counted together. Thinking of them, one is compelled to believe that Jack Miner was correct when he said: "Man has combined his destructive efforts with those of the birds of prey. Therefore, it is up to man to balance Nature by reducing the flocks of the birds of prey in the same proportion that man has reduced the game birds."

Remember always: Jack Miner's philosophy was not mere theory. One needs only to visit his home at Kingsville, Ontario, to realize how intensely practical he was and how completely he developed his philosophy in his physical surroundings. It is a lovely place — a small section of very ordinary earth made into a little heaven. Here, with his own hands, he planted fifty-three thousand evergreen trees. (Of course people told him they wouldn't grow in that particular soil; but he gave them special care and they did grow!) He hoed out the weeds from his gardens. In June the air is fragrant with the perfumes of the flowers he planted, the trees are filled with the songs of the many kinds of insect-eating birds that love to nest there, while continually during the spring months the song of the cardinal birds can be heard in the tree-tops about his home. Each spring and fall, hundreds and thousands of wild ducks and Canada geese (as well as a few of other species) visit this one small place where they have learned to find protection and welcome, winging in from the lake in the morning and returning there in the evening twilight. During the summer time, frogs and toads, which eat flies and insects, can be heard nightly croaking their evensong. So delightful has his place been made, by his system of assisting Nature that it is today one of the greatest tourist attractions in Canada. To those who criticize his philosophy: How many people does your place attract? Remember, this did not come about through any mere holding of a theory. Jack Miner had, first, to hoe the weeds out of his garden and kill the weeds of the bird family before his place could become the sanctuary of peace an beauty and joyous song which it is today.

In expressing his thoughts along this line, Jack Miner loved to close his address with the recitation of a brief poem written by Ida M. Thomas — a pungent bit of truth expressed in easy-to-remember verse. It is entitled, "Making a Garden":

Man ploughs and plants and digs and weeds,
He works with hoe and spade;
God sends the sun and rain and air,
And thus a garden's made.
He must be proud who tills the soil
And turns the heavy sod:
How wonderful a thing to be
In partnership with God!

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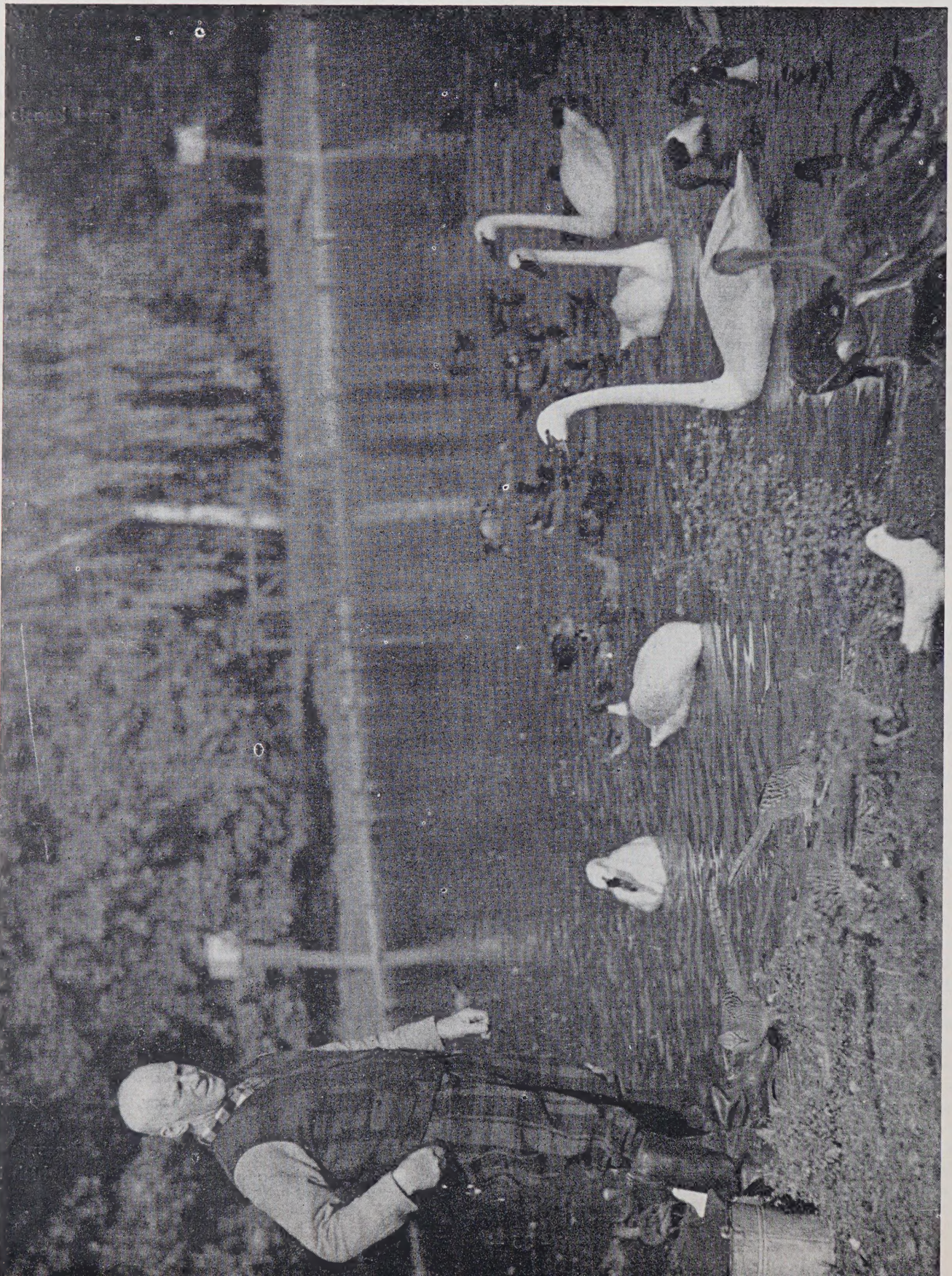

PHOTO OF JACK MINER AMONG HIS PETS IN SUMMER OF 1941 WHEN JACK MINER WAS 76 YEARS OF AGE.
— Photo by Carlton Nugent

APRIL 10 - 1865 JACK MINER NOV. 3 - 1944

Photo taken of Jack Miner in the northern wilds of Ontario. For sixty years 1882 to 1942 Jack Miner had a railway pass on the C.P.R. and made game surveys for this railway company annually during October and early November from Lake Keepawa, Quebec to Lake of the Woods, Ontario. This enabled him to see first hand the flucuation of game over a period of sixty years, long before the Wild Life Biologist of Ontario were even born.

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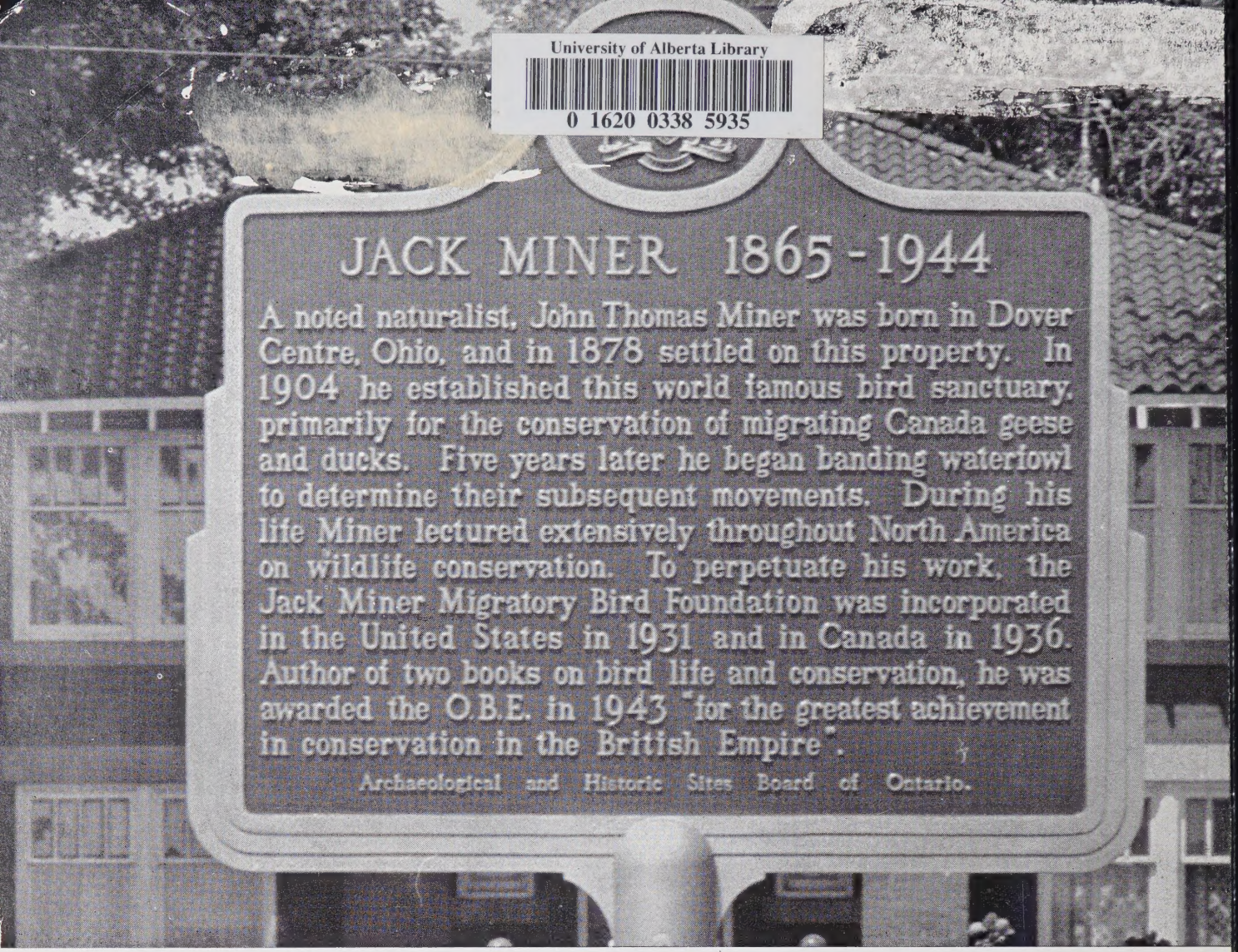
JACK MINER 1865 - 1944
A noted naturalist, John Thomas Miner was born in Dover Centre, Ohio, and in 1878 settled on this property. In 1904 he established this world famous bird sanctuary, primarily for the conservation of migrating Canada geese and ducks. Five years later he began banding waterfowl to determine their subsequent movements. During his life Miner lectured extensively throughout North America on wildlife conservation. To perpetuate his work, the Jack Miner Migratory Bird Foundation was incorporated in the United States in 1931 and in Canada in 1936. Author of two books on bird life and conservation, he was awarded the O.B.E. in 1943 "for the greatest achievement in conservation in the British Empire".
Archaeological and Historic Sites Board of Ontario.

An Address delivered by Reeve Mac Simmers at the Unveiling of the Ontario Memorial Plaque Commemorating the 100th Birthday of the Late Jack Miner

MR. CHAIRMAN — HONORED GUESTS — LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

As Reeve of this township I feel this is the most important moment in my public life to welcome you to Gosfield South the home of our beloved Naturalist the late Jack Miner who was affectionately known to all of us as Uncle Jack.

In 1904 when Jack Miner was only 39 years of age he conceived the idea of The Jack Miner Bird Sanctuary as a conservation measure to conserve our wild life and to start a reforestation program by planting trees.

Today some sixty-one years later in the U. S. A. patterned off this Kingsville Wild Life Refuge are some 288 wild life refuges consisting of seventeen million acres. Truly Jack Miner was the pioneer in this field of endeavor.

One year before he died The King of England bestowed upon him the Order of the British Empire with a citation which read: "For the greatest achievement in Conservation in the British Empire."

Today we are standing where not only Jack Miner walked but where his life work was so unique and important that it attracted the outstanding men of the world. To name a few who were frequent visitors and became close friends of Jack Miner were:—In the field of sport I name TY COBB; in the field of industry I name HENRY FORD who spent many days and nights as guest of Jack Miner; in the field of manufacturing I name W. K. KELLOGG, the Corn Flake King; in the field of aviation I mention CAPTAIN EDDIE RICKENBACKER; in the field of merchandising I name STANLEY KRESGE; in the field of finance I name MR. R. B. MELLON; as an industrialist I name Cleveland's FRED CRAWFORD; in the field of religion I name "BILLY" SUNDAY the great evangelist, also DR. FRANK BUCHMAN of Moral Re-Armament fame; in the field of industry, MR. CYRUS EATON, the Cleveland Industrialist; in the field of s "BUNNY" AUSTIN, the world champion tennis player. The gues in his home is full of such names which includes all the Provinc Ministers since Sir James Whitney and all Michigan Governors da to Pingree; also Canada's Prime Ministers dating back to Si Laurier.

When Jack Miner died the U. S. newspapers rated him the known man on the continent. Preceding him they named Ford Lindbergh and Rickenbacker.

In 1956 some twelve years after Jack Miner's death thirty-thre delegates of the United Nations made their way to his home whi history because as these world leaders left his sanctuary the l the party announced they had made history because never did of thirty United Nations delegates go in a body and make a spe to any one place, not even to the White House.

In closing my remarks I would like to express my appreciatio Essex County Historical Society and the Ontario Archives Dept., for their thoughtfulness and farsightedness in erecting this marker a historical occasion on this the Jack Miner Centennial year—t birthday of Jack Miner.

Last but not least but personally and on behalf of each and ever of this township which I represent I want to express our tha appreciation for the efforts put forth by Jack Miner's sons who ably filled the shoes of their late father in carrying on this cons work which has turned out to be one of Canada's greatest t tractions and has made his hometown Kingsville known throug civilized world. I thank you.

MAC SIMMERS,
Reeve of Gosfield South Township in which is located The Jack Miner Wild Life